

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

No longer in the dark about a kissing habit

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Jackson's exit signals start of Lakers breakup

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Coach Phil Jackson



In Iraq, deliveries bridge distances on Father's Day

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SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2004

U.S. fires on suspected militant hide-out in Iraq

At least 16 killed in airstrike on Fallujah neighborhood Page 3



BY FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH,
Qatar

War can take its toll. Whether it's the constant fear of the unknown, continuous sounds of gunfire or bombs, or having to deal with losing a buddy, sometimes troops just need to get away, no matter how short or long. On a daily basis, tired, worn-out troops can be seen getting off buses here, ready to take a break.

SEE REST ON PAGE 4

Close to combat, yet far away



PHOTOS BY FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Top left: Servicemembers catch some rays while enjoying their four days of rest and recuperation at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. The pool is one of the more popular spots for those participating in the Fighter Management Pass Program. Above: Members of the Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade, based out of Oklahoma, play a game in the pool. The unit is currently serving in Afghanistan.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Birthday greetings for suspect: Even on his birthday, NATO-led peacekeepers did not want Radovan Karadzic to forget they were still looking for him.

So on Saturday they put up posters in the Bosnian Serb wartime stronghold of Pale, east of Sarajevo, representing birthday cards for Bosnia's top fugitive war crimes suspect. But instead of tender greetings and good wishes, the posters bore a more threatening message: "Radovan, we did not forget you."

Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime leader, spent his 59th birthday hiding in the Bosnian Serb part of the country. He was indicted in 1995 by the U.N. war-crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, for genocide and other atrocities committed during Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

Unrest in Nepal: Rebels ambushed a police truck with a bomb and gunfire Saturday in Nepal, also hitting a nearby passenger bus in an attack that killed 14 policemen and four civilians, including at least one child.

At least 27 people were wounded in the attack in the village of Dhankhola, about 250 miles southwest of Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

The police truck was on patrol when it hit a mine in the road, and the rebels opened fire, police officials said. Surviving police fled back.

Fighting between the rebels, who say they are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, and government forces has escalated since the guerrillas withdrew from a seven-month cease-fire last August.

Iran nuclear program: Iran will reconsider its suspension of some uranium enrichment activities, Iran's top nuclear official told reporters Saturday, defiant in the face of censure from the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency.

Hasan Rowhani did not say explicitly that Iran would resume enriching uranium and he pledged to continue cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency. But he said Tehran considers its activities related to enrichment at its nuclear plants at Arak and Isfahan were "legal" and that Iran will inform the IAEA soon on how it would proceed.

Rallying for Aung San Suu Kyi: Dozens of Myanmar refugees rallied in the Bangladesh capital Saturday to mark the 59th birthday of the country's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and demand her release from house arrest.

The demonstrators in downtown Dhaka carried placards and banners that read, "Free Aung San Suu Kyi unconditionally," and "We want democracy in Myanmar."

The rally was sponsored by the Working Committee for Democracy Restoration in Burma, a Dhaka-based group of refugees.

Business

Grocery store strike: Federal prosecutors are investigating allegations that some California managers at Ralphs Grocery Co. knowingly allowed employees locked out during the chain's 4½-month-long labor dispute to work under false identities, according to the chain's parent company.

The U.S. Attorney's Office launched an investigation and a grand jury has convened to consider whether the allegations, if proven,



en, constitute violations of criminal statutes, Cincinnati-based Kroger Co. said in a document filed Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Halliburton's woes: Halliburton Co. has fired two consultants, including the former chairman of its KBR subsidiary, saying they accepted "improper personal benefits" in connection with a \$5 billion project to build a natural gas liquefaction plant in Nigeria, the company announced Friday.

The announcement came one week after officials at the giant oil services company acknowledged the Securities and Exchange Commission had opened a formal investigation into whether KBR and several other companies in a partnership called TSKJ paid \$180 million in bribes over several years since the mid-1990s to secure the Nigerian deal.

Several U.S. government audit agencies are investigating Halliburton's KBR unit for allegedly overbilling on food and fuel contracts in Iraq.

States

Connecticut impeachment: Connecticut lawmakers will not require Gov. John G. Rowland to testify before a legislative impeachment panel even though he has been ordered to do so by the state Supreme Court.

The high court on Friday said Rowland must testify before the House Select Committee of Inquiry, making him the first sitting chief executive in U.S. history ordered to appear before a legislative body.

The panel is scheduled to meet again Monday. Rowland is under investigation for accepting gifts from friends, state contractors and employees.

Scott Peterson murder trial: The judge overseeing Scott Peterson's murder trial has subpoenaed a few seconds of televised video footage showing a jury chatting briefly with Laci Peterson's brother as they passed through a courthouse metal detector.

Blake case: Actor Robert Blake, left, sits in court Friday with his attorney Gerald Schwartzbach a pretrial hearing at Van Nuys Superior Court in Los Angeles. Schwartzbach told the court there is almost no way he'll be prepared to defend the actor on charges of murdering his wife, Bonnie Bakley, by the Sept. 9 date the case is scheduled to go to trial. "Mr. Blake wants to see this case go to trial as soon as possible," Schwartzbach said. "He wants to be vindicated as soon as possible. But he wants me to be prepared."

The footage in question showed Juror No. 5, an airport screener, saying "could lose today" to Brent Rocha on Thursday. It was unclear what he meant, or whether Rocha responded beyond flashing a brief smile.

Court was not in session Friday when Judge Alfred A. Delucchi asked for a copy of the video, and it was not immediately clear whether the court would find the actions inappropriate.

Human smuggling: Two of the three people charged by federal prosecutors in April with operating a human smuggling ring out of a "safe house" in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles were arrested as immigrants paying for passage into the United States, according to authorities.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials have dropped charges against the two men as well as a woman they suspect might have had some connection to the smugglers. Moreover, investigators said they had few clues about who actually was running the smuggling operation.

The raids highlight the trouble federal officials have apprehending both "coyotes," who guide illegal immigrants into this country, and the masterminds who oversee the rings. It's also another setback in a raid first believed to have been a victory in the battle against smuggling of people.

Gay marriage amendment: The Senate in mid-July will take up a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, forcing lawmakers to cast a tough political vote just weeks before the Democratic presidential convention in Massachusetts.

President Bush has urged Congress to move on the amendment, but sponsors acknowledge the difficulty of getting the two-thirds majority to approve it.

"We're not certain we'll be successful in this effort," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said at a news conference to announce that the amendment would be on the Senate floor the week of July 12.

Stories and photo from wire services

Correction

The text accompanying a photo of a wounded Army officer on the front page of Wednesday's editions contained incorrect information. Army 1st Lt. Dwight Moore was injured when his OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed in Iraq.

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U.S. aims airstrike at possible hide-out

Intel indicated spot hid followers of al-Zarqawi

By JIM KRANE

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military stepped up its campaign against Jordanian terror suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi on Saturday, launching precision airstrikes that pulverized a suspected hide-out in Fallujah and killed at least 16 people.

Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt, the military's deputy operations chief, said multiple intelligence sources suggested that "a significant number of people in the Zarqawi network" were in this house at the time of the attack. U.S. officials said they didn't know if al-Zarqawi himself was there.

The explosions damaged eight homes in the poor neighborhood of the city, and witnesses said a second attack killed rescuers combing the rubble for survivors. Residents said 20 bodies — including those of women and children — were taken for burial.

However, Kimmitt said the attack set off ammunition and weapons stored in the safehouse, triggering "multiple secondary explosions" that could have caused some of the casualties and damage.

The surprise breakfast-hour strikes were the first significant U.S. military moves in Fallujah since April, when Marines backed away from a bloody three-week siege against insurgents holed up there. Since the U.S. forces left, residents have said extremist influence in the Sunni Muslim city, west of Baghdad, has only grown.

Al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian-born militant thought to have ties to al-Qaida, has been blamed for a string of car bombs across Iraq,



Residents of a Fallujah, Iraq, neighborhood comb through the wreckage of their homes, after a U.S. airstrike Saturday. A U.S. military plane fired missiles at a target believed to be a hideout of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, killing at least 16 people, police and residents said.

including the Thursday blast that killed 35 people and wounded 145 at an Iraqi military recruiting center in Baghdad.

Last week, U.S. aircraft dropped pamphlets over Fallujah urging residents to turn in al-Zarqawi, and American intelligence officials in Washington had said he was spending time in Fallujah.

U.S. officials have said al-Zarqawi's death would be a significant blow to the insurgency but would not bring it to an end.

Elsewhere, U.S. troops battled insurgents for a fourth day near the city of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, in fighting that has killed at least six Iraqis and one American soldier, the U.S. military and witnesses said. In south-

ern Iraq, a roadside bomb killed at least two people, including a Portuguese security officer.

The attacks occurred less than two weeks before the transfer of sovereignty from the U.S.-run occupation authority to the new Iraqi government.

No official pageantry is being planned for the July 30 handover ceremony, where the U.S.-led occupiers, headed by L. Paul Bremer, officially cede power to Iraq's interim government. The ceremony will be a "very discreet event" that will not be attended by incoming U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte, a senior U.S. official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

The clashes northeast of the capital began Wednesday in Bu-

hriz when insurgents fired on U.S. troops after they met with the mayor to discuss reconstruction projects, said Infantry Division spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien said.

Buhriz is located on the outskirts of Baquba, about 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. Clashes have continued intermittently in the area ever since.

The clashes spread Saturday to nearby Tahrir, where insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades at a U.S. patrol, wounding two U.S. soldiers, O'Brien said. The soldiers were evacuated to the Army's 31st Combat Support Hospital.

Dr. Nassir Jawad of the Baquba General Hospital said at least six Iraqis were killed and 54 were wounded in the Buhriz fighting.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Friday, 831 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 612 died as a result of hostile action and 219 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 693 U.S. soldiers have died — 503 as a result of hostile action and 190 of nonhostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Friday when six mortars hit a 1st Cavalry Division camp in southern Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Spc. Jeremy M. Dismaran, 29, Virginia Beach, Va., killed Wednesday in a mortar attack in Balad, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserve's 3rd Transportation Company, 172nd Combat Support Group, Fort Eustis, Va.

■ Army Sgt. Arthur S. Mastropa, 35, Appala, Fla., killed Wednesday in a mortar attack in Balad, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserve's 351st Military Police Company, 95th Military Police Battalion, 16th Military Police Brigade, Ocala, Fla.

— The Associated Press

U.S. senators visit Iraq, preview transition path

By TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. senators met with interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi on Saturday and later called on the world's nations to do more to help Iraq in the tough times ahead.

The visit by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.; Sen. Joseph Biden, D-De.; and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., comes amid an upsurge of insurgent attacks as the U.S.-led occupation authority prepares to hand over power to Iraq's interim government June 30.

"We recognize over the course of the next few weeks in particular, the many, many challenges relating to security, strengthening the economy, find-

ing even greater opportunities for international involvement," Daschle said.

"But I have to say I have a new and better appreciation of the progress that this government is making and the real potential for success that they may be able to demonstrate as they continue their work."

He commented after a brief meeting with Allawi and L. Paul Bremer, head of the occupation authority.

Violence has worsened in recent weeks. Baghdad has suffered a spate of deadly car bombings, insurgents have stepped up attacks on oil pipelines and two members of Iraq's interim government have been assassinated since it was appointed June 1.

Iraq faces "an incredibly difficult road ahead," Biden said.

Officials address pipeline attacks

The Associated Press

MUSAYYIB, Iraq — Iraq's new interim prime minister said Saturday attacks on the country's oil infrastructure were likely to continue, but that those who carry them out "will be defeated."

Speaking at the site where a pipeline was attacked earlier in June, Iyad Allawi estimated the country's oil losses from such incidents at \$1 billion.

He toured the site with Oil Minister Thamer Ghabban.

The 18-inch-diameter line that was sabotaged feeds the Musayyib Power Plant and the Dora Refinery.

"What you are seeing are the traces of a big crime which is committed against Iraq (and) the Iraqi people by groups (that) ... are insisting on crime, attacking Iraq's sovereignty, attacking the stability of Iraq," Allawi told reporters.

Allawi's visit to the site comes as workers in the south race to complete repairs on the country's two main crude oil export arteries. The lines, which transport at least 1.5 million barrels a day to offshore terminals, were damaged in attacks earlier in the week, forcing Iraq to halt exports on Wednesday.

Oil and coalition officials say they expect partial exports of between 600,000 to 700,000 barrels a day to resume Sunday, and that full exports are expected to resume by the end of next week.

Allawi said the environmental and other indirect costs stemming from these attacks has yet to be assessed. He said the final costs are borne by Iraqis who would have seen those funds used for pensions and other services.

"Of course we are expecting the continuation of those attacks against the Iraqi people, but I give a pledge to our decent people that the people will triumph and those criminals will be defeated ...," he said.

With "God's will, we will be able to run the government and then, with the help of the Iraqi people, we will be able to control those matters in the near future," he added.

Asked what the government was doing to secure the lines, Ghabban said a new security force working for the ministry is charged with protecting the lines, and the government has contracted with tribes across the country to monitor the lines.

The Oil Ministry has set up an armed Oil Infrastructure Police force that is aided by the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps and coalition forces. Iraqi officials have said they plan on mobilizing up to 20,000 people to police the pipelines.

"It is not a simple matter. It's very complicated, and it's difficult, but we are taking the challenge," Ghabban said, explaining there are over 7,000 kilometers of pipelines in the country.

Rest: Program a chance to relax

REST, FROM PAGE 1

They arrive in dusty desert camouflage uniforms, but soon shed them for clean civilian clothes as they begin their four days of rest and recuperation in the Fighter Management Pass Program.

More than 42,000 servicemembers have come and gone through the program, in place since July, according to Army Master Sgt. Ellie Walbridge, the program's Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor.

Once units have been in Iraq or Afghanistan for three months, they can send troops, Walbridge said.

Up to 180 servicemembers arrive nightly, Walbridge said. As soon as they walk through the door, she said, her staff's goal is to instantly put the troops at ease, Walbridge has 11 soldiers from the Wisconsin National Guard's 232nd Adjutant General Headquarters Detachment helping her.

As the new arrivals walk into the reception area, they are told to drop their bags and head into the briefing room, where there are plenty of chips and sodas to be had.

In the briefing room, they are greeted by images of the work they're doing in Iraq while the song "Hero," by Mariah Carey plays.

"We want them to know that they truly are heroes," Walbridge said.

During the briefing, the troops are given the do's and don'ts, and told what the base has to offer them. They're told that chaplains are on call 24 hours a day for those that may need to talk. And that there's a medical clinic on the camp that can help them take care of things they haven't had time to get looked at.

After the briefing, they are given bedding and assigned a place to sleep.

While they may be away from the war, all E-6s and below still have to rough it by sleeping in tents, but these are set up in warehouses complete with air conditioning. All ranks above that go to sleep in "corridor" bunting — shipping containers that have been built as two-person rooms.

While they may not be staying at a resort, most said they don't mind since there are no bullets whizzing by, and there are hot showers and toilets that flush.

Throughout the next several days, the troops can swim laps at the Olympic-size pool, or get a pedicure, manicure or massage at the gym. They can e-mail home, or better yet, talk to their loved ones in person for free on provided phone lines. There are also basketball, volleyball and tennis courts.

Troops also have numerous options when it comes to grabbing a bite to eat.

In addition to the dining facility, there is a Burger King, Subway and Pizza Inn. A Chili's restaurant by the pool allows servicemembers to sit down for a meal. Most are also excited about being able to down a cold beer at one of the two clubs on base.

Along with what the camp has to offer, Walbridge said each servicemember is also given at least one chance to leave the base. There are six venues, or day trips, for which the troops can sign up. They venture out on those trips during their second and third full days here.

Even though Army Spc. Eric Hiltner, assigned to the 1st Armored Division, has spent the last 14 months in Iraq, he took a desert safari trip during his stay. He said a friend who had been here told him the trip was great. The entire trip wasn't in the desert though, he said they ended the adventure on the beach and were able to swim in the ocean and have a barbecue dinner.

In addition to getting a nice tan by going to the pool as much as possible, Hiltner took a little time to pamper himself, getting a massage and manicures.

"It was good... I enjoyed it," Hiltner said. "My nails were taking some abuse."

Hiltner added that he passed on the pedicure there because of extremely ticklish feet.

Sleeping wasn't high on Hiltner's agenda. He was enjoying himself so much, he didn't want to waste any time sleeping. He said he and his friends



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

Newly arrived troops enjoy some chips and sodas as they prepare for their in-brief for the four-day Fighter Management Pass Program at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. The briefing lists the do's and don'ts for the program and what the base has to offer. Immediately after the brief, the servicemembers can shed their uniforms and spend several days relaxing.

would have some coffee and just walk around at night before finally getting about two hours of sleep. They would then head to the pool, which is open from 8 a.m. to midnight.

While Hiltner was trying to stay awake, Marine Cpl. Michael Dowling, from Marine Wing Support Squadron 273, said it was nice to sleep in.

"This is great... It definitely breaks up the monotony," said Dowling, who has been in Iraq for four months. "So far, the best part about it is the down time and relaxing at the pool. It's nice not having to get up at 5 [a.m.] to go to work."

Both Hiltner and Dowling said they were still thinking about their peers back in Iraq. Hiltner said he would've liked to have some of his friends here with him, but most of them have already made the rest and recuperation trip.

"This is great... It definitely breaks up the monotony. So far, the best part about it is the down time and relaxing at the pool. It's nice not having to get up at 5 [a.m.] to go to work."

Marine Cpl. Michael Dowling

SEE REST ON PAGE 5



Spc. Erica Isaacson, of the 232nd Adjutant General Headquarters Detachment, takes a puff off of a traditional sheesha pipe at the Paradise Cafe.



CLAYTON T. GRUSING/Special to Stars and Stripes

Spc. John Clever, right, and Spc. Joshua Fritz, of the 389th Engineer Support Company, discuss a piece from the Earth from Above exhibit on Doha's corniche. Troops can sign up for six day trips during their stay in the rest and recuperation program in Qatar.

It's the drink that lifts spirits

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — While the Olympic-size swimming pool is one of the main draws for the Fighter Management Pass Program, it's what's offered at the Oasis Club and the Top Off Club that have the troops really excited: ice cold beer or wine.

This is the first opportunity in months, maybe a year, that some troops have had to kick back and relax with a cold brew. And what most junior servicemembers like about it is that there's no bouncer at the door checking IDs.

"Whoever thought of this is a mastermind," said 20-year-old Army Spc. Robert Swanson, who is assigned to the 293rd Military Police Company, which is currently deployed to Iraq. Swanson and his fellow 293rd drinking buddies — Spc. Jesse Greene, also 20, and Pfc. Darren "Moose" Ripley, 19 — all like the fact that they could crack a beer every night.

"If I can take a bullet for my country, I

should be able to drink a beer," Greene said.

And the three soldiers have done exactly that, each one of them has been injured in Iraq, and will eventually receive a Purple Heart, Swanson said. That's the reason their names were put into the mix for those being sent here, they said.

"But enough about that, let's talk about the beer," Swanson said. That's the reason their names were put into the mix for those being sent here, they said.

The beer that's offered is limited. The troops have their choice between about six different beers, ranging from 12-ounce Budweisers to 16-ounce Holland — Orangebeers.

The soldiers said they've heard some people complain about the taste of the imports, but they don't mind.

"It doesn't make a difference [what brand], as long as it does its job," said Swanson, who prefers the larger imports. "Over here, everyone goes for the size, not the taste."

And Swanson said that first taste of golden brew was excellent.

SEE BREW ON PAGE 5

Rest: A way to get away

REST, FROM PAGE 4

Dowling said he's going to try to share his experience with his unit.

"I took some pictures for them. ... For some it will be to rub it in, and some will be just to show them what's here," Dowling joked. "They're not forgotten though. I wish more of them could get their shot."

After three complete days, each group then meets at 4 a.m. the next morning and heads back to their unit. Walbridge said it's tough to see the troops head back to the stressful environment, but she's glad she and her staff could make a difference.

"I'm just happy to see that they had a good time," she said.

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The Olympic-sized swimming pool and Chili's restaurant are popular spots for those on the front lines who've been given the opportunity to rest and recuperate on the 10-day Fighter Management Pass Program in Qatar.

PHOTOS BY
FRED ZIMMERMAN
Stars and Stripes

Brew: 'Heaven' is a cold beer in Qatar

BREW, FROM PAGE 4

"It was like seeing Pam Anderson in real life ... it was heaven and I couldn't resist," he said.

While troops may be in "heaven" while having a tall, cold one, there is a limit. Army Master Sgt. Ellie Walbridge, the Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor for the R&R program, lets them know what that limit is the first night here.

"You'll be glad to know there is a three-drink minimum," Walbridge tells the troops, who reply back with cheers. Those cheers, though, quickly turn to moans when she announces "there is also a three-drink maximum."

Each day between the hours of 6 p.m. and mid-

night, troops can go to one of the clubs and purchase up to three tickets for drinks. Walbridge said the two clubs are linked via computer and the service-member's information is stored in the system so each club knows when they've had their three-drink maximum.

"I think they should extend the hours and the drink limit to five," Swanson said. He added that anyone that comes here who has never had a drink before would probably try his or her first here.

While the three soldiers completed their R&R time and headed back to their unit Sunday, Swanson joked that it was going to be hard to let go of his 16-ounce friend.

"I'm probably going to cry," he said. "It will be like breaking up with a girlfriend."



Spies. Jesse Greene, left, and Robert Swanson enjoy a 16-ounce Arabian-boom beer at the Oasis Club at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar.

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Vittek	25 Jan-1 Jul
Vogelweh	25 Jan-1 Jul
Wiesbaden	2-8 Jul
Wuerzburg	25 Jan-1 Jul

1st AD soldiers keep hopes for home on low

BY JESSICA INIGO
Stars and Stripes

As handover nears, troops know their services may be needed longer

KARBALA, Iraq — Though there's talk of going home, the 1st Armored Division soldiers in Karbala said they were extended the first time for a reason: to take care of the bad guys.

And if push comes to shove in the days before the June 30 handover in Iraq, their ability to get those bad guys just might make them too good to send home again, troops said.

Army officials have announced that the Germany-based division should be home by mid-July, but senior noncommissioned officers on the ground said this time their troops are "stone cold" about the buzz.

"There's no emotion," said Sgt. 1st Class James Plum, platoon sergeant for Company B, 16th Combat Engineer Battalion out of Giesen, Germany. "We've been told many things that have not come to pass."

"Also, you got to think, do we really have

faith in the 1st Calvary to get things done?" Plum asked.

In April, members of the division were either called back from Germany or turned around from departure points and sent to fight a Shiite Muslim uprising in south-central Iraq.

The task force built around the 1st Battalion, 37 Armor Regiment, known as "The Bandits," was sent to Karbala to help fight militia of cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. In 21 days of fighting, 1st AD soldiers captured militiamen, cleared out weapon's caches and drove the rest of the militia out the city.

When troops were satisfied the militia was gone, the Army transitioned from fighting to rebuilding.

Since the militia left the city May 21, the Bandits have fixed up public land and buildings and created a safe environment for local businesses, the soldiers say.

"We did a kick-ass job here in the battle of Karbala," said 2nd Lt. Jose Sandoval, the platoon leader for Company B, 16th Engineers. "The Army knows it's got a resource here, so they'll use us if they can. If we're available here, they'll use us."

The troops said although some lives were lost, the extension was the right thing to do.

"We definitely hit one of the strongholds for the Sadr militia, which was important," said Staff Sgt. Alexander Roa, personnel NCO in charge of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 137 Armor from Friedberg, Germany. "We weeded out a lot of bad guys and showed them that we are not afraid. We're here to see things through."

Now, with the handover right around the same corner as some dates of departure, troops said they're going to have to see it to believe it.

"I won't believe it until I'm home, for about two months, just sitting down. Then I might think we're really not coming back," said Sgt. Ketwon Moore, a track vehicle mechanic with Company B, 16th Engineers.

Some troops said they were even trying to push family hopes of an early extension return.

"We're a little skeptical about hearsay. I know it sounds weird, but I'm even trying to keep my wife's hopes down. Last time, it wasn't too pretty," said Sgt. Thomas McKnight, another track vehicle mechanic with Company B, 16th Engineers.

Right now, troops are working as usual. Maybe some minds slip into plans to finish off the rest of their summer at home, but nobody's going to talk about it and jinx it before they get there.

E-mail Jessica Inigo at: inigoj@mail.stripes.osd.mil

Deployed dads receive love, goodies from home

BY RICK SCAVETTA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Iraq — For many people, missing Father's Day might be no big deal.

But for men deployed with the military, it's a chance to show off cards and snapshots of their kids that families sent in care packages.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Doug Evans, the 95th Military Police Battalion's maintenance officer, got his package Tuesday. His eldest son, Steven, 10, sent him a handwritten letter and drawings of tornadoes. Kevin, 7, drew tanks, pirate ships and a submarine.

"It's kind of emotional to see what they are writing and how they are growing up so fast," Evans said.

Evans admits he's been lucky. Over the years he's only been away for military schools and field exercises. Now that he's on a yearlong tour, Evans was glad his wife, Sue-Anne, who lives with the boys in Mannheim, Germany, remembered to throw in some licorice and lollipops.

Master Sgt. Scott Toy's wife, Holly, is now in Texas visiting relatives. Before she left Germany, she sent off a package with cards

from his boys, Eric and Ethan, and an updated photo.

Unfortunately for Sgt. Tracy Swinn, this Father's Day is his first without her dad. Two weeks after he arrived in Iraq, she received a Red Cross message saying her father, James Hunter of Syracuse, N.Y., had died.

But she made sure to send a



RICK SCAVETTA/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Chuck Campbell of Center Harbor, N.H., shows off a photo of his kids, Ian, Rachael and Alicia.

card off to her husband Chris, who is back in Stuttgart, Germany, with her daughters, Melissa, 11, and Amanda, 5.

Staff Sgt. Chuck Campbell, a New Hampshire National Guardsman stationed in Balad is expecting a package, he said. Campbell, who keeps laminated photos of his three children in a pouch around his neck, knows packages can take a long time getting to Iraq.


"I know they were sending some stuff," Campbell said. "It's probably somewhere in the mail system."

When Father's Day rolls around, Maj. Jesse Galvan, 38, of San Antonio thinks about his old man, a career infantryman who served in Vietnam.

His children, Nicholas, 13, and Jesse Jr., 11, are traveling in Italy with their mom, Sheila.

He knows how they must feel. "I was an Army brat, too," Galvan said. "I definitely know what it's like being away from Dad."

E-mail Rick Scavetta at: scavetar@mail.stripes.osd.mil



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Military chaplains brave danger for troops

Religious leaders continue duties despite Iraq's hostile environment

By RON JENSEN
Stars and Stripes

Before the body bags with their precious contents are flown from Iraq, chaplains serving at the airport in Baghdad approach the aircraft for a small, brief and unobtrusive service.

"To kind of dignify that moment," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frank Yerkes. It is, he said, "a holy privilege."

Yerkes, wing chaplain for the 100th Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, England, and now deployed to Iraq, said those services have been frequent lately.

In his first two weeks in Iraq, he took part in one or two such events a day, he said in a telephone interview.

"It is a holy moment. Not just a piece of cargo," he said. The families of the fallen, he said, perhaps will feel better because of the few words and the prayers said for their loved ones.

Across town at the headquarters of the Coalition Provisional Authority, Chaplain (Capt.) Ken Beale frequently leaves the Green Zone to minister to soldiers. Although the Green Zone is far from safe, the streets of Baghdad hold another level of danger.

"[The troops] apologize to me for having to come out there," said Beale. "I'm like, 'Give me a break.'"

The troops want him there, he said. They want a chaplain to come to them, to talk to them and minister to them. With a shortage of Catholic chaplains, he performs Mass on Wednesdays,

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

"I can't say, 'Well, I'm not going to go out because I'm afraid,'" said Beale, the senior Catholic chaplain for the 48th Fighter Wing at RAF Lakenheath, England.

Whether in a war zone such as Iraq or the tranquil setting of a base in America or England, a chaplain's duty is the same — to minister to the needs of a military member or anyone else.

But in Iraq, the need often is more immediate and the risk is greater.

Yerkes recently spoke with a soldier who had lost his best friend. Beale worked down the hall from the Iraqi oil minister who was killed recently in an ambush.

In Iraq, there is no place safe from mortar rounds or rocket-attacks or car bombs. Beale's the Green Zone

— is a target nearly daily for insurgent attacks. A mortar round landed quite close to him recently. Others land with great frequency on the compound.

"Green Zone does not mean safe or free from attack. We are under attack," he said. "That is a reality. You feel the explosions. You feel the shakes."

The Air Force may have sent them there, but an even higher power called them to this duty, they said.

"I believe that to be here is to be at the very center of God's will," Yerkes said. "I truly believe I'm here to accomplish his purpose."

SEE CHAPLAINS ON PAGE 9



ASHLEY BROKOP/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Chaplain (Capt.) Ken Beale, center, says troops apologize to him because he goes into harm's way to celebrate Mass. With a shortage of Catholic chaplains, Beale celebrates Mass four days a week

Priest suffers injuries in IED attack

By MATT MCKINNEY
Minneapolis Star Tribune

The past eight months have brought this perilous assignment for Army chaplain (Maj.) Timothy Vakoc: head into battle zones, unarmed, to talk to soldiers about God and faith, all in the midst of chaos.

The dangers of his duty in Iraq caught up with him on May 29 when, after he had celebrated Mass for soldiers in Mosul and begun the drive back to Camp Diamondback, a roadside bomb shattered his Humvee.

"He took the brunt of the blast," said his brother, Jeff, of Plymouth, Minn.

The explosion seriously injured Father Vakoc, who was flown to Landstuhl, Germany, for surgery.

Vakoc lost an eye and sustained brain damage and possible paralysis of his right side in the blast, said Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

"I believe he is an extraordinary person — friendly, outgoing, generous, dedicated," Flynn wrote in a letter to priests and deacons.

Vakoc was flown from Landstuhl to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, where he is in the Intensive Care Unit, his sister, Anita Brand said during a telephone interview from Springfield, Va.

Vakoc has a form of bacterial

meningitis, and because of infection, doctors are unable to determine the extent of the brain damage, Brand said.

"Brain swelling and infection are the primary things we're dealing with right now," Brand said. "It's too hard to predict" the extent of the brain damage.

There was some movement on his right side after he arrived at Walter Reed.

"He opened his eye and looked at me, and squeezed my hand," Brand said.

Vakoc, 44, was at Fort Lewis, Wash., when he was called up for active duty in Iraq last fall.

SEE PRIEST ON PAGE 9

Father's Day Messages

LOAD

Thank you, Mary, We will need to have your mailing address and a phone number in order to process your ad. Please include the information in a reply email. Thank you! Natasha

LOAD

Joe, You mean everything to us. Even though we are not together for your 1st Father's Day you are with us in Spirit! We love you with all our hearts. Love, Kristin, Madison & Tyson

Happy Father's Day

Dear Tony, You are a wonderful man, officer, husband, & father. We adore you! Your loving family, Elaine, Dom & TJ

Happy Dad

Adam, We miss you this Father's Day yet again, without you! Thank you for all that you do and all the sacrifices you've made for us. You're a great father, husband & soldier! We are very proud of you! We love you, Lori, Bryce & Bo

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Poll: War boosts image of Army, Marines

With focus on ground, public no longer sees Air Force as most important force

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — The Air Force is no longer America's overwhelming choice as the most important branch of the armed forces due to the conflict in Iraq, a new Gallup poll shows.

Americans consider the Army or the Marine Corps just as important, while the Navy and the U.S. Coast Guard are far behind, the survey found. However, twice as many people named the Marine Corps as the "most prestigious branch" compared to the rest.

The poll represents a significant shift in opinion, which has traditionally favored the Air Force. The public has long considered the Air Force as the service "most vital to the nation's defense" dating back to similar polls in the 1940s and 1950s.

But the tremendous amount of media attention zeroed in on ground forces in Iraq has changed public perceptions, Gallup found.

"Although Air Force and naval aircraft were a big part of the initial 'shock and awe' campaign that kicked off the Iraq war in March 2003, the visibility given the role of air (or sea) power has been low as the war has dragged on over the past year," Frank Newport wrote in an article explaining the findings.

A randomly selected national sample of 1,002 adults inter-

viewed between May 21 and 23 found that 25 percent named the Army as the most important. Twenty-three percent answered the Air Force and the Marine Corps, while only 9 percent suggested the Navy. The Coast Guard received 4 percent.

The Air Force had the top spot as recently as two years ago, when it was chosen by 38 percent, the Army 18 percent, the Navy 17 percent and the Marine Corps 16 percent.

The intense media attention is the main reason the Army and the Marine Corps surged in the survey, and the prison abuse involving U.S. soldiers at Abu Ghraib didn't seem to affect opinions, according to the polling organization. Ironically, the attention might have helped boost the Army's perceived importance among Americans.

"The Army has suffered negative publicity from its involvement in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, but if nothing else, the prison situation focused even more attention on the major role the Army is playing in Iraq," Newport wrote in the May 27 report.

Soldiers and Marines weren't surprised by their rise in popularity.

Air Force pilots attracted most of the attention during the first Gulf War in 1991, when TV news images of smart bombs slapped a premium on air power.

But as Spc. Robert Arnold, an artilleryman with the 1st Battal-

Americans rank military overall as most trustworthy institution

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — When it comes to public confidence, the military is still the top — higher than police, the church and the presidency.

The latest Gallup poll shows Americans still say the military is the highest-rated institution.

Three out of four Americans have a "great deal" or "quite a lot of confidence" in the armed forces, according to the survey conducted May 21-23. That is down from the 82 percent last year.

The slight slip is to be expected, according to Gallup. Last year's spike in public confidence was likely related to patriotism after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks against the United States and the military's performance in Afghanistan and Iraq, Lydia Saad wrote in a Gallup article about the poll. It is not clear if the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal involving U.S. soldiers had any impact on opinion.

"Even without the prisoner abuse scandal, one might have expected public confidence in the mil-

itary to have declined over the past year now that the major combat in Iraq is over — just as public confidence first peaked, then descended around the time of the 1991 Persian Gulf War," Saad wrote.

After the end of the first Gulf War, Americans' confidence in the military rose to 85 percent, according to the polling organization. But by October 1991, it dropped to 69 percent.

Although allegations of sexual abuse by Catholic priests caused a decline in the confidence in organized religion, 53 percent said they had a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the Church. That's up from 45 percent in 2002.

Sixty-four percent of those interviewed said the same about police. Fifty-two percent said they a great deal or quite a lot of confidence in the presidency.

Newspapers, big business and Health Maintenance Organizations rounded out the bottom of the list.

— Scott Schonauer

ion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment based in Babenhause, Germany, put it: "It's our time to shine."

While air power had a huge role in the first part of the Iraq war, ground forces have taken the lead fighting an insurgency in Iraq and hunting for al-Qaida leaders in Afghanistan. The bulk of the 130,000 troops in Iraq are soldiers and Marines, and they've also received the most casualties since the start of the conflict.

"Soldiers are the ones getting wounded, dying and bringing peace to Iraq and Afghanistan," Army Capt. Gary Brightman said. "The Army puts a face on what's going on over there."

Marine Lance Cpl. Andrew Wingett said the same goes for the Marines.

"In a time of war like this, everyone is thinking about the Marines because we're the ones out in the field, we're the ones out in the battlefield fighting in it, fighting," said Wingett, a member of the Rota, Spain-based Marine Corps Security Force Company Europe. While the Army and the Marine Corps are fighting together in Iraq, the Corps beats the Army as the most prestigious branch in the eyes of the public, the poll showed. Forty-four percent of those interviewed say Marines are "the most prestigious" and have "the most status in our society today."

Marine Cpl. John Calloway said he expected the Corps to continue to be regarded highly for years to come.

"Personally, I just think the American population is in love with the Marine Corps," Calloway said.

Air Force and Navy public affairs officers acknowledged that their branches have been overshadowed by the Army and Marine Corps because of the attention given to ground forces in Iraq.

"We saw the report here and we've moved on," Air Force spokeswoman Capt. Cristin Lescapelle said. "It's not something we really have anything to say about."

Navy spokesman Cmdr. Conrad Chun said the poll is only a snapshot in time, and sailors understand the "critical role" the Navy plays, adding that recruiting and retention in the past few years have never been better.

"The truth of the matter is all services play vital roles in today's joint battlefield," Chun said. "And the Navy is more 'joint' than it has ever been."

Jon Anderson contributed to this story.

E-mail Scott Schonauer at: schonauers@mail.esrpress.org

Stars and Stripes

Messages of Support

THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU! My children look up to you so much.

Especially my 10 year old son, who says if he was old enough, he would be out there fighting alongside you, for freedom & his family! I'm a very proud AMERICAN & an especially proud mother!!!! Of course I tell my son that we can still be there, fighting beside you in our prayers! So you have all our hopes & prayers every morning, day, & night! THANK YOU once again & always! LOVE! ALL OF YOU!!!! from my family to yours: D (anthony.maybelle.benjamin.8me-(athena b.)

I'm thinking of you guys all the time.

Thank you so much for serving our country. Everyone is so proud of you, our soldiers. We are praying for you always, God Bless!

I want to add my voice to the support of our men and women in uniform who are in the battle against evil. You are my heroes and in my prayers every day, Terry from Sacramento

AS A AMERICAN I AM 100% BEHIND OUR TROOPS, MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND I WILL KEEP YOU IN MY PRAYERS UNTIL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU IS BACK HOME. N. L. REYES

TO ALL OF OUR TROOPS...I AM PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN AND TO WATCH THE GREAT PROGRESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAS ACCOMPLISHED. REST ASSURED WE ALL SUPPORT OUR SERVICEMEN. GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE. NAOMI IN SAN ANTONIO TX

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR PROTECTING ALL OF US AMERICANS AND OUR FREEDOM!!!! YOU ARE THE AMERICAN HEROES AND WE AMERICANS ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR BRAVERY!!!! NANCY BROWN

Just wanted to thank all of you for what you are doing. You are in my prayers and thoughts daily and we appreciate the sacrifices you are making so that our country will be a safer place. GOD BLESS you.

Former 1st AD chief tapped for SOUTHCOM

The former commander of the 1st Infantry Division got the nod to pin on a fourth star and take over the top regional command for military operations in Central and South America.

Lt. Gen. Bantz J. Craddock, who led the "Big Red One" from 2000 to 2002, has been most recently serving as Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's top military aide. Pending Senate approval, Craddock will take over the reins of the U.S. Southern Command, based in Miami, Fla., replacing Gen. James T. Hill.

Airman gets six months in jail for indecent act

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A military jury has sentenced a Ramstein Air Base airman to six months in jail after convicting him of committing an indecent act, a base spokeswoman said.

Tech. Sgt. Perry Cawelti, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of power production at the 1st Combat Communications Squadron, was convicted June 10 on a charge that he permitted a female child to touch him inappropriately.

The jury also sentenced Cawelti to a reduction of one pay grade, Ramstein spokeswoman Darlene Cowart said.

Cawelti committed the offense in base housing on Ramstein between March 1 and May 22, 2003.

From staff reports

Chaplains: 'Danger is reality'

CHAPLAINS, FROM PAGE 7

Within the Green Zone, Beale's ministry includes many State Department workers and others who are trying daily to put Iraq back together as a country. He has helped Jews and Muslims and even Buddhists and Mormons.

"I'll have years of homilies," Beale said.

Both men talk about the dedication of their flocks. Beale said his work gives him "a great civic lesson" as he watches the effort each day to put the nation back on its own feet.

Yerkes says he is amazed at the courage shown by the young troops, many of them not much older than his teenage son. He is struck, he said, by the thought that the troops on guard at the base or on patrol in the city are willing to die to protect him.

"It's a humbling thought," he said. "Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. I'm proud to call these young troops my friends."

Despite the many risks, both go about their business, sharing the word of God with those who want to hear it.

"The danger is a reality," said Beale. "And we can't be paralyzed by it."

Shortly before Yerkes was interviewed, the base had been under an alert following a mortar attack.

"It's real. You've got to be on your guard all the time," he said.

"Am I afraid? No, I'm not afraid. It's drawing out my faith in God. If not for that, I would be afraid."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.stripes.osd.mil.



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Frank Yerkes, right, confers with Staff Sgt. Matthew Molton, left, and Senior Airman Jeffery George in Baghdad.

Priest: 'He wanted to be there'

PRIEST, FROM PAGE 7

"I know in my discussion with him that he wanted to be there, felt that it was where the good Lord wanted him to be," said Jeff Vakoc.

"He wouldn't tell us where he was, over there," Brand said. "He'd say, 'I'm in the land of Daniel and Jonah — read your Bible.'"

His job placed him as close to danger as most of the soldiers were, said Army chaplain (Maj.) Elizabeth Mayforth. "It's sort of this double bind you're in — You're there to serve God and country, but you're also in harm's way," she said. "Bullets have no eyes. They can hit anyone."

Brand said the outpouring of

support since the incident has been overwhelming.

"It's amazing how many people have sent e-mails, really powerful e-mails," she said. "From his first assignment in Heidelberg, he was stationed in Hanau, in Bonn, then Fort Carson and Fort Lewis. I have a 3-inch (thick), 3-ring binder filled with all the e-mails — to say how he's touched their lives."

A "Caring Bridge" site has been set up for Vakoc, Brand said. Those who wish to send more personal messages can do so at: padretin92@msm.com.

Stars and Stripes Washington bureau chief Patrick Dickson contributed to this report.

Harms seen in time of hidden detainees

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Department's action of hiding a detainee in Iraq has jeopardized the lives of U.S. service members, especially those who might be taken prisoner of war, a military law expert said.

Analysis

"This involves the golden rule of reciprocity," said Eugene Fidell, involved in military law for 35 years. "How would we like it if our people fell into the wrong hands ... and were kept incommunicado and off the books?"

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld admitted Thursday that he approved a request by CIA Director George Tenet to secretly hold a highly valued suspected terrorist in a U.S.-run prison in Iraq.

"I found the secretary's disclosure shocking," Fidell said.

But the terrorists already aren't playing by the rules, said Daniel Goure, vice president at the Lexington Institute think tank.

"They're slaughtering civilians, blowing up their own. I'm not sure why we have this fantasy that if we stick by the rules, so will they," he said. "They already don't adhere to the rules. I'm not worried about our servicemen in the hands of ... terrorists. This is already extraordinarily high."

However, holding prisoners in secret is inconsistent both with rules set under the Geneva Conventions and with repeated statements by Rumsfeld and other Pentagon officials, who have maintained that all prisoners in Iraq will be afforded Geneva Conventions status, Goure said.

"There is reason to be concerned that this type of action might erode the sanctity of the Geneva Conventions and, therefore, in future conflicts, one could argue it could increase risk to troops," Goure said.

The U.S. military should have promptly registered the prisoner, said Dan Dell'Orto, the Pentagon's principal deputy general counsel.

"The Red Cross serial number should have been registered soon, relatively soon," he said Thursday at Rumsfeld's press briefing.

Even if they had registered this detainee, the military could have denied an ICRC member access to interview and inspection if doing so "might interrupt ... or disturb your ability to get information you need to get, particularly there and on the ground, where we had a terrorist of a known terrorist organization, of high rank," Dell'Orto said.

When asked if the Pentagon plans to suspend the practice in light of Dell'Orto's comments, a Pentagon spokesman said: "That's not something we're ready to talk about yet."

To rectify the situation, the Pentagon "has to abandon this policy," Fidell said. "The International Committee of the Red Cross attempts to work with great discretion. That is its hallmark, and is a policy that has served the ICRC very well and has been the interests of the United States."

"Where the books are being cooked, basically by the secret defenses, frustrates the ICRC's ability to perform its function," said Fidell, who also is president and co-founder of the nonpartisan National Institute of Military Justice.

For this article, he offered his own views. NIMJ has not taken a position on the issue.

The NIMJ, a nonprofit organization based in Washington that has many members who serve on active duty as judges and lawyers, scrutinizes the military justice system and, when it deems necessary and appropriate, makes recommendations for change to Congress, the Pentagon or the Court of Appeals for Armed Forces, Fidell said.

Fidell also finds worrisome that there may be other cases. Rumsfeld acknowledged to reporters that other prisoners have been held secretly.

"There are instances where that occurs," he said.

Rumsfeld said the prisoner has not been mistreated, and distanced the case from the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

"He has been treated humanely," Rumsfeld said. "There's no implication of any problem. He was not at Abu Ghraib. He is not there now. He has never been there, to my knowledge. There's no question at all about whether or not he's received human treatment."

E-mail Sandra Jontz at: jontzs@stripes.osd.mil

GI who kept return from Iraq secret for Father's Day surprise is killed

The Associated Press

APPOPKA, Fla. A soldier who kept his scheduled return home secret for a Father's Day surprise was killed along with two other soldiers in a mortar attack in Iraq, officials and family members said Friday.

Sgt. Arthur Stacey Mastrapa, 35, of Apopka, died Wednesday in Balad, Iraq, when mortar rounds hit his camp, according to the Department of Defense.

Mastrapa, whose unit was

scheduled to return to the United States on Friday, had hoped to surprise his family.

"He wanted to surprise me for Father's Day," said his father, Arthur Mastrapa, 61. "He was a joy to have around — a very good, happy person."

Mastrapa was a member of the Army Reserve's 31st Military Police Company, based in Ocala.

The unit left in February 2003 during the buildup to the war in Iraq, and its return home was

planned and delayed twice before. A homecoming parade for the soldiers of the 31st was planned Thursday.

Mastrapa, who had a wife and two children, worked as a postal carrier.

"He liked being in the military," said his brother Mark Mastrapa. "He really loved serving his country."

Also killed in the attack were Army Maj. Paul R. Syverson III, 32, of Lake Zurich Ill.; and Army Reserve Spc. Jeremy M. Dimarano, 29, of Virginia Beach, Va.

Messages of Support

To my dedicated husband who has put his life on hold to serve for the US people. He has missed so much since he left in November including watching his 2 children grow (age 6 yrs and 9 months). He is dedicated to the cause and devoted to the military. I am proud of you Matthew. I am proud to be your wife. I just want you to do what you need to do so

I am behind you 100%, thank you for going over there for me. You are in my thoughts and prayers everyday. You make us all proud and you are very brave. Stay safe and God Bless. Go U.S.A!!! S. Maguire Albany, NY

that you can come home to me and the kids. We miss you so much. Love you...Always and forever. Jo

Hi Guys! Hope that all is well and the dust storms don't choke you to death. Know that all the folks back home respect what you are doing and what this effort stands for. My son just enlisted in the army today!

I know that I will be as proud of him as I am of all the forces. Keep safe and keep your heads down. Love From Texas!!

IN THE WORLD

Saudis clam al-Qaida leader killed

4 militants believed to be behind American's death killed in police shootout

BY SALAH NASRAWI
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi TV broadcast pictures Saturday of four bloodied bodies of four suspected militants, including the al-Qaida chief in the kingdom, who were shot to death hours after killing American Paul M. Johnson Jr.

Saudi officials said Johnson's beheaded corpse still has not been found, contradicting earlier reports that it was dumped outside the capital, Riyadh.

The al-Qaida cell allegedly led by Abdulaziz al-Mogrin fulfilled its threat to kill engineer Johnson, beheading him and showing grisly photos on the Internet on Friday. The slaying drew a chorus of condemnation from around the world, with even one of America's staunchest foes, Syria, calling it a "shameful crime."

Hours after Johnson's slaying, security forces at a roadblock intercepted al-Mogrin and the other militants with their car, sparking a gunbattle that ended with the four being killed, Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Crown Prince Abdullah, told reporters at the Saudi Embassy in Washington.

He said initial reports from Saudi officials that the militants were traced after a witness saw them dumping Johnson's body were incorrect.

"We haven't found [Johnson's] body yet," al-Jubeir said, adding that security agents were searching the northern outskirts of Riyadh. "We think we know the area where it is," he said.

The death of al-Mogrin, 31, would be a coup for Saudi Arabia's government, which has been beset by a wave of attacks on Westerners aimed at driving foreign workers from the kingdom and undermining the ruling royal family.

James Oberwetter, the U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia, welcomed the development but warned it didn't mean the threat of violence has ended.

"A great deal was accomplished last evening. We also believe that much remains to be done," Oberwetter told reporters. "The Saudis are doing an excellent job of working on their most wanted list — and working people off that list — but not everyone



An Al Arabiya television image shows reputed leader of al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia Abdulaziz al-Mogrin, center, flanked by Rakan al-Sakhani, left, and an alleged unidentified militant, right. According to officials, Saudi forces killed all three Friday after the al-Qaida cell claimed responsibility for beheading American engineer Paul M. Johnson Jr.

who is a threat has been removed from the list and maybe there are many more."

Al-Jubeir said that with al-Mogrin's death "we have substantially weakened the organization... We will continue to pursue them with vigor until we eliminate them from our midst."

The televised pictures of the dead militants appeared to be aimed at refuting doubts by Islamic militants that he was killed.

A posting on an Islamist Web site Saturday said claims of al-Mogrin's death were "aimed at discrediting the holy warriors and crushing their spirits."

A picture of one of the dead men showed the face of a young man, clean-shaven except for his mustache and resembling past pictures believed to be of al-Mogrin. Al-Ekhabriya, an al-news Saudi satellite channel, showed a full photograph of the same corpse, covered with blood.

A U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity Friday confirmed al-Mogrin's killing, while a Saudi official said forensic tests would confirm the body's identity.

Al-Jubeir said security forces who had been scouring the capital for days, using moving roadblocks, found the car carrying al-Mogrin and his colleagues in Riyadh's al-Malaz neighborhood. A gunbattle erupted and lasted for several hours, as "the terrorists tried to shoot their way out," he said.

One security officer was killed and two wounded, the state Saudi Press Agency reported. Two suspects escaped, according to a Saudi security official who participated in the fight.

An Interior Ministry identified the four dead as al-Mogrin, Faisal Abdul-Rahman al-Dikheh, Turki bin Fuhaid al-Muteiri and Ibrahim bin Abdullah al-Dreihani.

Johnson, 49, who had worked for Lockheed Martin in Saudi Arabia for more than a decade, was kidnapped last weekend by militants who threatened to kill him by Friday if the kingdom did not release its al-Qaida prisoners. The Saudi government rejected the demand.

President Bush condemned the beheading and vowed that "America will not be intimidated by these kinds of extremist thugs."

World leaders condemn American's decapitation

By THESE GARDNER

Beth Associated Press

LONDON — Shock and revulsion spread around the world Saturday over the beheading of an American hostage by an al-Qaida cell in Saudi Arabia.

The brutal killing of Paul M. Johnson Jr. and the display on the Internet of grisly photos of the body added to fears about a rising tide of anti-Western violence in the desert kingdom.

"These evil acts are not only aimed against the United States and the West, but also against Islam and humanity," Jordan's King Abdullah II told Jordan Radio.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said he does not want American workers to flee Saudi Arabia because that would reward the people whose violence in recent weeks has killed Johnson, two other Americans and more than two dozen other foreigners.

Speaking a day after the State Department strongly urged Americans to avoid going to Saudi Arabia and those there to leave, Powell said Friday in a radio interview. "If they leave, then the terrorists have won, and I don't think either the Saudis, the Americans, or these brave folks who work in Saudi Arabia want the terrorists to win."

Condemnations of the killing, reminiscent of American Nag Berg's beheading in Iraq in May, came from Europe, Asia and across the Middle East.

In Syria, a longtime U.S. foe, In-

formation Ministry official Ahmad Haj Ali called Johnson's slaying "a horrible crime that is alien to the Arabs and Muslims."

To prevent such violence from continuing, he said it was necessary to "search for the circumstances that have led to it and what leads to terrorism," a possible reference to U.S. policy in the Middle East, blamed by many there for fueling Muslim extremism.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer called Johnson's murder "a barbaric act that is in no way justified."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, at a European Union summit in Brussels on Friday, expressed shock, saying "This shows the nature of the people we are fighting day in, day out, around the world."

Italy's leading daily Corriere della Sera ran a front-page editorial calling the killing "the apotheosis of the culture of death... the most barbarous violation of the sacredness of life, the central point of our civilization."

Saudi newspapers had harsh words for the terror cell and hailed the government's claim to have killed Abdulaziz al-Mogrin, the reputed leader of al-Qaida in Saudi Arabia, and the other militants. Authorities said the men were killed in a gunbattle after they dumped Johnson's mutilated body.

"The head of terror falls before Johnson's blood dries," said a front-page headline in the Arabic daily Al-Watan.

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Family blames 'extremists,' not Saudis

BY JEFF LINKOWS
The Associated Press

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, N.J.

Grieving over their loss, relatives of American hostage Paul M. Johnson Jr. said they hoped for privacy as they decide what to do next, according to a family spokesman.

Family members of Paul M. Johnson Jr. also released a statement Friday praising U.S. and Saudi authorities for efforts to rescue him. "They knew the odds were not in the favor of law enforcement," said Joseph Billy Jr., an FBI agent who spoke on the family's behalf. "They also know that the vast majority of citizens of Saudi Arabia also grieves with them at this time."

Johnson, 49, was kidnapped

last weekend by militants who followed through on a threat to kill him by Friday if the kingdom did not release its al-Qaida prisoners.

An al-Qaida group claimed responsibility posted an Internet message that showed photographs of a beheaded body.

Johnson had worked in Saudi Arabia for more than a decade and over the week his friends and family had described him as devoted to the culture of his adopted land.

Johnson's family was "going through a very difficult time, but they are remarkably strong," said Billy. "They also know this act of terrorism was committed by extremists and does not represent the Saudi Arabia that Paul often spoke and wrote about to his family," he said.

Those close to Johnson's family were horrified by the slaying.

"They just can't keep taking American hostages, doing that to them, and putting it on the Internet for everybody to see," said John Hayes, a childhood friend of Johnson.

"These are barbaric people. There's no justification whatsoever for his murder. And yet they killed him in cold blood," said President Bush.

Johnson's employer, Lockheed Martin, issued a statement Friday afternoon expressing the company's grief. At the time of his abduction, Johnson was working on targeting and night vision systems for Apache helicopters.

The slaying sent shock waves through the communities in New Jersey where Johnson grew up, and in Florida, where he later moved.



Reader's Digest wants to find out
which military service is the funniest.

The monthly magazine is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its "Humor in Uniform" column by running a contest to find the most humorous true tales from military life. Active, Reserve and retired servicemen and their families can participate.

Entries must be submitted to www.rd.com/starrstips by June 30. They also can be mailed to: "The Funniest Branch of the Military Contest," Reader's Digest, P.O. Box 1598, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Entries must include the entrant's full name, e-mail address and street address. Anecdotes should be no more than 100 words, true, original and related to the armed services.

The magazine's editors will select finalists from each service to appear in the September edition. Readers will then be asked to log on to www.rd.com to choose their favorite, and their votes will determine the winner.

The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip for two to St. Kitts, Marriott & Royal Beach Casino in the Caribbean. The other four finalists will receive \$500. Those whose anecdotes are selected for publication in future "Humor in Uniform" columns will receive \$300.

Italy issues plan to prevent heat-wave deaths

The Associated Press

ROME — After thousands of elderly deaths attributed to scorching heat last year, the Italian government has issued emergency measures to safeguard against a similar crisis this summer.

A Health Ministry order, which came into effect Saturday, calls for local medical authorities to draw up lists of citizens 65 or

older who could be at risk, and then to monitor and protect them if the heat rises.

Town officials must also provide help "through economic or home assistance services, emergency phone lines, accompaniment and transport," the ministry's decree said. The order is valid until Sept. 30.

In figures published last year, the Health Ministry said at least 7,659 more people —

nearly all elderly — died in Italy during that summer's heat wave compared with the same period in the previous year.

Last year, Health Minister Girolamo Sirchia placed part of the blame on lack of assistance for the aged during Italy's vacation period, when residents flood out of cities by the millions and doctors can be hard to find.

The death toll was even worse in France,

where the heat wave was blamed for the deaths of nearly 15,000 people, mostly elderly and alone.

Last month, French health officials announced a four-level weather warning system and other measures. In Germany, the western state of Hesse, which includes Frankfurt, has also drawn up a warning system aimed at protecting the frail and elderly.

Spanish, Thai police uncover counterfeit passport network

2 Bangkok-based members held in connection with sale of forged papers

The Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Spanish and Thai police uncovered a Bangkok-based ring that forged passports and sold them to terrorists, drug traffickers and other criminals, authorities said Saturday.

Police in Bangkok arrested two men — Iqbal Mamad, a 36-year-old Pakistani, and Decha Kueprakong, 31, of Thailand — who were allegedly in charge of selling the bogus documents, Spanish police said in a statement.

Police searched the men's Bangkok apartment and found 23 false passports — 11 from New Zealand, 10 from France and one each from Belgium and Spain.

More than 20 people worked for the ring, the police said without specifying if others were arrested.

The counterfeit passports were allegedly sold for \$1,800 each to criminal organizations involved in terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and fraud, the statement said.

Most were exported to Europe

through couriers from EU countries who hid the documents in their luggage, it said.

As part of the same investigation, authorities arrested a British citizen in September 2003 at Roissy airport in Paris. The Briton, who has not been identified by name, was carrying more than 200 false passports, most of them French, the statement said.

A Spaniard was arrested in April at a Bangkok airport as he tried to board a plane for London carrying 280 forged passports from France and Belgium, police said.

Tornado hits Turkey

ANKARA, Turkey — A rare tornado hit a small village near the Turkish capital Saturday, killing at least three people and injuring more than a dozen others, officials said.

Local officials said at least 15 buildings sustained heavy damage in the Saturday morning storm.

Mayor Adem Tugluca put the death toll at four people, but other officials said three were killed. Some 14 people were injured, including at least two in serious condition, officials said.

Local officials could not say how many people were left homeless in the village of 250.

Nazi hunter honored

VIENNA, Austria — Britain has awarded an honorary knighthood to Nazi-hunter

Simon Wiesenthal in recognition of a "lifetime of service to humanity."

Wiesenthal, 95, survived incarceration in Nazi prison camps in eastern Europe during World War II and has dedicated his life to bringing those responsible for the Holocaust to justice.

He is perhaps best known for his role in tracking down Adolf Eichmann, the one-time SS leader who organized the extermination of the Jews.

The British Foreign Office said John Macgregor, Britain's ambassador to Austria, gave Wiesenthal the award on Friday in a ceremony at his home.

The knighthood also recognized the work of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, which was founded in 1977 to promote remembrance of the Holocaust and the defense of human rights.

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Lips locked, eyes closed

Professor has some theories about why

The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Ever wondered why many people close their eyes when they kiss? A Singapore academic said Saturday that smoochers may drop their lids to avoid overloading the senses and — just possibly — to skip the unpleasantness of seeing their lover's blurry form up close.

"The answer may depend on the way you look at it," Associated Professor Yau Che Ming, from the National Institute of Education at the city-state's Nanyang Technological University, wrote in Saturday's Straits Times newspaper.

"With kissing in action, this induces sensory overload," Yau wrote in a question-and-answer column dubbed "The Learning



April Bergeon, right, of Killeen, kisses her husband, Army Pfc. Jay Bergeon, as he enters the terminal at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport after clearing customs from a flight from Iraq last week. Both have their eyes closed, a human tendency that a Singaporean scholar said in a newspaper column may be attributed to instinct, modesty or avoidance of a blurred image of one's partner.

Curve."

"Therefore closing the eyes is a natural way to reduce the sensory load," he wrote.

Then there's the vision theory.

"When one kisses, blurred and non-three-dimensional images of

the face of one's partner may be evident, and this feeling may be unpleasant," Yau said. The answer could be to keep one's eyes clamped shut.

Or, lastly, it could just come down to modesty.

"Some people prefer to believe that people close their eyes to reduce embarrassment and to concentrate on the feeling of tender touch and love," Yau wrote. "In short, they simply do not wish to be disturbed."

Lobster stands guard

LONDON — Lobsters have long been known as solitary and territorial crustaceans — but timely and fashion conscious? Divers in northeast England were recently surprised to come across a giant lobster standing guard over a barnacle-encrusted watch at the bottom of a harbor.

The watch and its 2-foot-long guardian were found by divers doing maintenance work in Blyth harbor, officials said Thursday.

"We're all highly experienced divers, and none of us has seen anything like this before," said Graham McDonnar, a member of the Lady Francis Dive Team.

"Not only is this the biggest lobster any of us have ever come across under water, but it's also the first sea creature we've encountered that can tell the time," he joked.

The lobster, estimated to be about 30 years old, was taken to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Tynemouth, where it is settling in well in the harbor tank display.

Third kind of restroom

BANGKOK, Thailand — Snubbed by both men and women, transvestite students at the Chiang Mai Technology School just wanted a restroom to call their own — and were granted one.

Dubbed the Pink Lotus Bathroom, the facility is exclusively for the school's 15 transvestite students and features four stalls, but no urinals. On the door hangs a sign with intertwined male and female symbols.

"They would come in the morning and use the women's bathrooms, but the women were annoyed to die like it or played pranks on them," said Posaporn Promprakarn, registrar of the school in Chiang Mai province, about 360 miles north of Bangkok.

The transvestites — who must wear male attire at school but are allowed to sport feminine hairdos — switched to the men's bathrooms, only to run into more trouble.

So Posaporn designated a lavatory just for them, telling the vocational school's 1,500 students to just use their own restrooms.

Wicked 'witch's brew'

MADRID, Spain — Spanish authorities jailed a Danish man who cruised the streets of Valencia, handing out a "witch's brew" of jimson weed — a poisonous, hallucinogenic plant — to strangers, Spanish media said Saturday.

Those who gulped down the brew experienced hallucinations, accelerated heartbeat and other health problems, and five ended up being hospitalized, the news agency Efe reported.

The El Mundo newspaper reported that the 29-year-old man, who was not identified, called the greenish-brown liquid a "witch's brew" and told young people, "You'll see everything differently" if you drink it.

At higher concentrations it causes hallucinations and can be lethal. Small doses of jimson weed, however, are used to treat asthma, muscle spasms and symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

From The Associated Press

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IN THE STATES

Experts: Terrorists likely to use dirty bomb on U.S.

BY CHARLES J. HANLEY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Terrorists are "all but certain" to set off a radiological weapon in the United States, since it will take authorities too many years to track and secure the radioactive materials of such "dirty bombs," a team of nuclear researchers has concluded.

The United States and other key governments took an important step on controls this month, agreeing at the Group of Eight summit to tighten — by the end of 2005 — restraints on international trade in highly radioactive materials.

But thousands, possibly tens of thousands, of high-risk radioactive sources are already in use worldwide, with few accurate registries for tracking them, the scientists say. The findings are being published in a 300-page book, "The Four Faces of Nuclear Terrorism," the result of a two-year study by the authoritative Center for Nonproliferation Studies, or CNS, of California's Monterey Institute of International Studies.

The team also examined the potential for terrorists to steal or build an actual nuclear weapon, but found that less likely than the construction of a radiological dispersal device, or dirty bomb.

Unlike warheads designed to kill and destroy through a huge nuclear blast and heat, these radiation weapons — which thus far no one has employed — would rely on conventional explosives to blow radioactive material far and wide. A successful bomb could make a section of a city uninhabitable for years.

Misunderstandings persist about the threat. This month, for example, the Justice Department said al-Qaida-linked detainee Jose Padilla planned to wrap explosives in uranium to make a dirty bomb.

But uranium would add nothing; it has minimal radioactivity.

Instead, specialists who study the threat focus on isotopes with millions of times more radioactivity than uranium — such as cesium-137, cobalt-60 and iridium-192. The United States alone has an estimated 2 million licensed radioactive sources, thousands of them high-risk materials, the CNS reports. Because of disjointed licensing by federal and state agencies, no complete registry exists. Transfers are not always noted, and sources go astray.

The CNS researchers highlighted a major loophole in radioactive commerce: U.S. and other exporters can ship high-risk sources abroad without a government review of the end user, including to such turmoil-ridden lands as Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Colombia.

Local bishops to decide on denying Communion

BY RACHEL ZOILL

The Associated Press

America's Roman Catholic bishops said from a private retreat Friday that Catholics should not honor or give awards to politicians who defy "our fundamental moral principles" on abortion and other issues.

However, church leaders refrained from making a definitive statement on whether Holy Communion should be withheld from dissenting Catholic lawmakers. The bishops had entered the meeting badly divided over the issue and, after their closed-door discussion, affirmed that under church law each bishop can decide how to apply teachings in his own diocese.

"Bishops can legitimately make different judgments on the most prudent course of pastoral action. Nevertheless, we all share an unequivocal commitment to protect human life and dignity and to preach the Gospel in difficult times," the bishops said in the statement from their suburban Denver assembly, which ended Saturday.

The prelates emphasized the importance of opposition to abortion from the earliest days of the church, and the obligation of Catholic lawmakers to uphold that teaching. They said all Catholics must "examine their consciences" before deciding whether they are worthy to take Communion.

"Those who formulate law ... have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good," the bishops said.

"The Catholic community and Catholic institutions should not

honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis sparked a national



Kerry

over Communion and politics in January by saying he would deny the sacrament to Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, a Catholic

whose support for abortion rights and positions on other issues are against church teaching.

Over the next several months, more bishops weighed in, revealing their vast differences. Some said Communion should not be used as a public rebuke, while others urged Catholic lawmakers to abstain from taking the sacrament if they fail to uphold church teaching in their policy-making.

Bishop Michael Sheridan of Colorado Springs, Colo., went further — saying those who vote for defiant Catholic politicians should refrain from taking Communion along with the lawmakers themselves.

Even officials in the Vatican noted the American dissent. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the Vatican's orthodox watchdog, effectively discouraged bishops from using the sacrament as a sanction earlier this month.

Bush tabs 12 to get Medal of Freedom

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush has selected a dozen people to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the White House announced.

Two of the recipients will be honored posthumously, while the others are invited to receive America's highest civilian honor at a White House ceremony with Bush Wednesday.

The Medal of Freedom, established by President Harry Truman in 1945 to recognize civilians for their World War II service, was reinstated by President John F. Kennedy in 1963 to honor distinguished service in a range of fields, including arts, sports, business and science.

Medal recipients are:

■ Robert L. Bartley, conserva-

tive journalist and Pulitzer Prize-winner who was editorial page editor of The Wall Street Journal for three decades. He died in December at age 66.

■ Edward W. Brooke, first black elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction.

■ Doris Day, singer and icon on the American movie screen in the '50s and '60s.

■ Vartan Gregorian, scholar and historian who headed the New York Public Library.

■ Gilbert M. Grosvenor, chairman of the National Geographic Society.

■ Gordon B. Hinckley, president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

■ Pope John Paul II, who was presented with the medal during Bush's June 4 Vatican visit.

■ Estee Lauder, cosmetics pioneer who built a Fortune 500 company. She died in April at age 97.

■ Arnold Palmer, winner of 92 golf championships.

■ Arnall Patz, a world-renowned ophthalmologist and researcher of eye disease.

■ Norman Podhoretz, neoconservative author and longtime editor of Commentary.

■ Walter B. Wriston, former chairman and chief executive of Citibank and chairman of President Ronald Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board.



AP

President Bush, seen speaking at the Reno Sparks Convention Center on Friday, has announced plans to present 12 civilians with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest honor.

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Kerry making an in-depth search for VP

BY JIM VANDEHEI
AND LOIS ROMANO

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — John Kerry has been phoning friends at all hours and reviewing vice-presidential choices dating to 1932 as the Democratic candidate nears what many consider the biggest — and most telling — decision of his general-election campaign, according to Democrats inside and out of the campaign.

While Kerry is tight-lipped about the pick, these Democrats said the process is revealing much about how the Massachusetts senator views his strengths, his leadership style and the role of a vice president. Kerry has privately expressed confidence that voters see him as sufficiently strong on national security, but that, who wonders whether he needs a moderate or conservative Democrat on the ticket to improve his centrist credentials. Kerry is skeptical a running mate can make a decisive difference in the election's outcome,

these sources said, and is much more concerned with finding a ready-made president, though one who will not try to steal the show.

Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina has emerged as the favorite of many Democratic senators and Kerry friends and advisers. Edwards' stock has shot up in recent weeks as private polling shows the freshman senator providing a boost to the ticket in key states because of his Southern appeal and perceived likability, two sources close to the campaign said. "The delay in announcing someone has helped Edwards," a Democrat close to Kerry said.

Kerry, who has been enamored with the idea of a unit ticket, all but dropped that as a possi-



Kerry

bility after Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., rebuffed his overtures, the sources said.

Many of his friends said Kerry showed where they think his heart is by giving a 90-minute interview Wednesday evening to another rival from the primaries, Rep. Dick Gephardt of Missouri. Kerry considers the former House minority leader not only presidential and trustworthy but also unlikely to upstage or overshadow him on the campaign trail or in office, the sources said. Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Bob Graham of Florida appear very much in the running, too. Kerry met privately with Graham two weeks ago in Florida.

Two Democrats close to Kerry said retired Gen. Wesley Clark's stock plummeted after the former Democratic presidential candidate received lackluster reviews from some former colleagues.

No minorities or women are frequently cited by Kerry allies as top contenders. But history shows the eventual vice-presidential

pick is often someone the campaign — and media — have not mentioned. Think Richard Cheney in 2000.

Friends say Kerry believes he has passed a national security threshold with voters that has freed him to tap a vice-presidential candidate who complements him in other ways. In 2000, Cheney was seen as a wise choice for Texas Gov. George W. Bush because he brought foreign policy credentials to the ticket.

Some Democrats said Kerry is less confident that he has successfully sold himself as a moderate politician, which helps explain the flirtation with McCain, a unit ticket and Democratic centrists such as Edwards. The campaign considers the South to be Kerry's biggest regional liability, which may bode well for Edwards.

Some close to Kerry talk of a "Mississippi strategy" that would move away from a traditional battle for the South and focus on the states stretching from Louisiana, through Arkansas and Missouri, northward.

This helps explain Kerry's early interest in Clark, who is from Arkansas, and Westerners Gephardt and Vilsack, according to a Democrat close to the campaign.

Some Democrats are pushing Sen. Evan Bayh of Indiana, who voted for some Bush tax cuts, sending a clear signal of centrism. The Indiana Democrat would "underscore" that Kerry "is bringing mainstream values to the ticket," said Democratic painter Mark Penn, who is promoting Bayh.

Kerry told American Urban Radio Networks on Thursday that a prerequisite is "somebody who has the ability to fill in as president if something terrible were to happen." Most presidential candidates say this, but Kerry seems unusually sensitive to that possibility, according to several people who have talked to him. Kerry is a student of history and an ardent fan of President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated. Kerry also seen death up close in the Vietnam War, and he faced prostate cancer in 2003.

Ads accuse Cheney's lesbian daughter of hypocrisy

BY ELIZABETH WOLFE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A campaign to compel the vice president's lesbian daughter to oppose a proposed ban on gay marriage is launching its first Internet ad on Monday.

A series of simply animated cartoon panels features stick figures of Mary Cheney and Vice President Dick Cheney. On image reads, "Dick's daughter sold out to help Dick run again."

The story line refers to Mary Cheney's job as director of vice presidential operations for the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign.

She held a public role as her father's assistant in the 2000 campaign and helped the Republicans recruit homosexual voters during the 2002 midterm elections. She has been less visible this year while traveling with the vice president or working at campaign headquarters in Arlington, Va.

President Bush, meanwhile, has disturbed many gays, Republicans included, by asking Congress to move on a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage in the United States.

"They've clearly made the decision to keep her in the closet for this campaign," said John Aravosis, who in February

launched the Web-based campaign www.DearMary.com, which started running the ad for free on Friday. "They clearly understand the contradiction between having a lesbian run for vice president's campaign at the same time they want to bash gays in the Constitution."

Nicole Devenish, communications director for the Bush campaign, called Mary Cheney "a tremendous asset to the campaign" and dismissed such tactics as going after a politician's offspring.

"I think any group's actions are going to speak for themselves," she said.

Devenish said Mary Cheney will be-

come more visible as the election nears, though she would not comment whether the vice president's daughter would be reaching out to gay voters or Republicans who oppose the amendment.

Among sites running the ads are WashingtonPost.com, the satirical newspaper The Onion and several liberal Web blogs, Aravosis said.

He said \$23,000 has been raised to launch the ads, which could last a week or more depending on funding. But the majority of the costs — at least \$50,000, he said — has been donated in services by an advertising firm and a Web advocacy firm that support the message.

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★ Hello to you. Thank you for all you are doing to ensure the my freedom and the freedom of all of us here in the United States. Thank you too for caring enough to help those who are in the midst of this battle. We love you and God speed. The Roberts, Seattle, WA

★ I just wanted to write to express my appreciation and support for all you do to allow us in America to have the freedoms every day in this great democracy I am proud to live in. I support our President and I support all of you. I pray for your safe return. Linda in Boise, Idaho

★ P. VINCIATI: AT HEY, HOPE OUR ISLAND PRINCIPLES DOG ALLRIGHT. WE ARE THINKING OF YOU AND PRAYING DAILY FOR YOU AND YOUR TROOPS. COME BACK TO HEIDELBERG SAFE AND SOUND SO WE CAN MAKE SOME MORE MEMORIES. COM AMOR, CHRIS AND BILL

Clinton goes from couch to best-seller list

BY HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bill Clinton says in his new book that his affair with intern Monica Lewinsky revealed "the darkest part of my inner life" and led to his temporary banishment from the White House bedroom to a nearby couch.

In "My Life," the former president wrote that when he finally confessed to Hillary Rodham Clinton after months of public denials, she looked as if she had been punched in the gut. The couple started going to counseling one day a week for about a year, he said.

The book, published by Alfred A. Knopf, comes out Tuesday with a first printing of 1.5 million and should be one of the biggest publishing sensations in years. It is almost certain to outsell a previous sensation, his wife's memoirs, published last year.

Hillary Clinton has offered her own memories of the affair. In "Living History," she wrote that she "wanted to wring Bill's neck" upon learning the truth and that at one point, Buddy the dog was the only member of the family willing to keep the president company.

Also in "My Life," Clinton recalled meeting with President George W. Bush and telling him that the biggest threat to the nation's security was Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

According to Clinton, Bush said little in response, and then switched subjects.

42nd president's memoir hits stores Tuesday

Clinton, 57, received a reported \$10 million advance for "My Life," a 957-page book edited by Robert Gottlieb.

Unlike other recent presidential memoirs, Clinton is believed to have written his own book, in longhand.

Advance orders of "My Life" exceed 2 million, making it highly likely that "My Life" will sell more copies than "Living History," Hillary Clinton's book has about 2.3 million copies in print, including both hardcover and paperback editions, according to publisher Simon & Schuster.

The former president's autobiography has been at or near the top of Amazon.com's best-seller list for the past month, holding the top spot with 2.3 million copies in print, including both hardcover and paperback editions, according to publisher Simon & Schuster.

In "My Life," Clinton wrote that he came to learn that his upbringing had made certain things difficult for him, and that he was particularly prone to self-destructive behavior.

When he was tired, angry or feeling lonely.

Clinton's father was killed in a car accident shortly before he was born, and the man his mother remarried was an alcoholic who frequently abused her.

Clinton wrote that the violence and alcoholism of his home left him with persistent feelings of shame and fear and a lifelong struggle with secrecy, not sure of what to reveal and what to hide.

Clinton said his biggest presidential mistake was a 1994 decision that would ultimately lead to his impeachment — asking then-Attorney General Janet Reno to name a prosecutor to look into his Whitewater land dealings.

The original prosecutor, Robert Fiske, was succeeded by Kenneth Starr, and the investigation was eventually expanded to include Clinton's affair with Lewinsky.

Writing about his 1998 impeachment, Clinton said Republican leaders were not punishing him for dishonesty or immoral conduct in having an affair with Lewinsky and lying about it under oath. He said he believed the reason was power, and because his political goals were different from theirs.

He survived the ordeal and remained focused on his job because of the support of the White House staff and Cabinet, even those who felt betrayed by his behavior — numerous world leaders, and encouraging words from both friends and strangers.

He even expressed gratitude to his political enemies for hurting him and his wife closely together. And once the impeachment process was over, his ex-wife — of at least two months — to the couch in a living room next to the bed when he ended, too, he said.

Clinton also said of the impeachment process: "The whole battle was a badge of honor. I don't see it as a stain, because it was illegitimate."



Clinton

Clinton said his biggest presidential mistake was a 1994 decision that would ultimately lead to his impeachment — asking then-Attorney General Janet Reno to name a prosecutor to look into his Whitewater land dealings.

Gorilla's leap shakes up zoo security

BY LISA FALKENBERG
The Associated Press

DALLAS — A cheetah could do it. So could a chimpanzee. But no one expected a stocky, knuckle-dragging 340-pound gorilla to leap across a 12-foot-wide moat and a wall that separated him from visitors at the Dallas Zoo.

But zoo investigators say that is exactly what happened the day 13-year-old Jabari escaped and went on a 40-minute rampage in March, snatching up a toddler with his teeth and injuring three other people before being shot to death by officers.

The gorilla's flying leap has astounded primate experts and is leading some to rethink the design of the gorilla exhibits.

"All it does is give you pause and you think, 'This may be one championship gorilla here, but I've got to be careful because maybe I've got one too,'" said Terry L. Maple, former director of Zoo Atlanta for 17 years, who has written about gorilla behavior.

Zoo officials who conducted a three-month investigation announced last week that they believe Jabari got a running start

Gorilla's improbable leap

The 340-pound gorilla, Jabari, leaped out of its compound at the Dallas Zoo on March 18, clearing the exhibit wall, a trench wall, and a security wire.



Visitor walkway

SOURCES: Dallas Zoo; Jones & Jones architects

and sailed over the trench, clearing the 14-foot wall and an electrical wire stop at that is supposed to give a mild shock.

Some experts speculate Jabari may have been doing a display run — a showy charge that younger males perform for females or other audiences. Others say he could have been motivated by fear, anger or desire to breed.

Dallas Zoo officials believe he leaped because they could not

find evidence of human error, such as open doors, or any objects that could have aided his escape. But zoo director Rich Buckerood acknowledged: "We still have not had anyone come forward yet to say they actually witnessed the [leap]."

Jabari's escape moved the zoo to renovate the exhibit where younger gorillas stay, raising the walls to at least 15 feet, adding "gorilla speed bumps" to break up long, flat stretches.

Juneteenth still one Texas-sized debate

BY PAM EASTON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Twenty-five years ago, Texas made June 19 an important date in Civil War history — a state holiday. Today, some still remain unconvinced the day known as Juneteenth should be officially marked.

Juneteenth marks the day Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston in 1865 to share news of the Emancipation Proclamation, which freed slaves two years earlier on Jan. 1, 1863.

"It is not a real reason to celebrate in my opinion," said former U.S. Rep. Craig Washington, who was a state representative when Juneteenth became an official holiday in 1979.

"It is a celebration [marking] that we were kept ignorant for that time," said Washington, who pushed for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to be observed as a state holiday the year Juneteenth was approved.

King's holiday was the big debate in 1979, said state Sen. Rodney Ellis, who said "somehow" Juneteenth emerged from

the debate. "You had some members, even some of the civil rights advocates, who were offended at the notion of people who didn't want to recognize King's birthday all of the sudden deciding that they would support a Juneteenth celebration."

State Rep. Al Edwards was behind the push to designate Juneteenth as a holiday. His bill was passed on June 5, 1979.

"That was one piece of legislation that was tough to get passed," said Edwards, who encountered opposition from fellow black lawmakers. "When he passed the bill, it gave it something. It became something that was done by blacks, whites and browns. It wasn't just a resolution, an observance, but an outright holiday."

Omwale Okunrejuw, secretary of the National Black United Front in Houston, said an official holiday designation doesn't make Juneteenth or any other holiday day more significant.

"It is not necessary to have official holidays in order for our community to honor those events or individuals who we feel are our heroes," he said.

Astronaut's mission can't keep him from child's birth

BY MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space station astronaut Mike Fincke was listening in from orbit Friday when he got the good news: It's a girl.

His wife Renita Fincke gave birth to their second child at a Houston-area hospital — just two days before Father's Day. The astronaut was connected via a NASA-arranged radio hookup to his wife's cell phone in the delivery room, a family friend said.

NASA officials said it was the first time to their knowledge that a U.S. astronaut was in space during the birth of his child.

The couple named the girl Tarali Paulina. Fincke, a 37-year-old Air Force lieutenant colonel, proudly informed Mission Control that Tara — the first two syllables of the name — means "star" in the Indian dialect of his wife's family. NASA also arranged two video conferences for the family in the hours after the birth, family friend Judith Hayes said.



American NASA astronaut Michael Fincke with his wife, Renita, and son, Chandra, stand together for photographers in Star City outside Moscow on April 13.

AP

Hate crimes down

TX **PORT WORTH** — The number of reports of hate crimes committed against Arabs and Muslims have nearly returned to pre-Sept. 11, 2001, levels in Texas, according to the Department of Public Safety.

Thirteen Arabs were the targets of hate crimes last year, compared with 19 in 2002. Four anti-Islamic crimes were reported in 2003, down from 11 the year before.

Nationally, anti-Islamic hate crimes increased 121 percent last year, according to a report issued by the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington, D.C.

The downward trend in Texas surprised some Arab and Muslim leaders, who said they had feared the fighting in Iraq would incite violence here.

Disasterous flooding

WI More rain fell on Wisconsin hours after Gov. Jim Doyle asked President Bush to declare a dozen counties disaster areas because of recent flooding.

The latest rain appeared to be heaviest in the central part of the state, with 2 to 5 inches coming down in Portage and northern Adams counties, the National Weather Service estimated.

In Stevens Point, four vehicles had to be towed from water-covered underpasses, and basements of two homes filled with water, police said. To the southwest, water covered several Sparta streets, and several hundred people were voluntarily evacuated from a Sparta trailer park as water from the La Crosse River crept close, officials said.

Internet on the road

TX Weary highway travelers may soon be able to surf the Internet while they stretch their legs or grab a soda at a Texas rest area.

The Texas Department of Transportation is taking offers from companies willing to provide free wireless Internet access at the state's 84 rest areas and 12 travel information centers.

TxDOT began experimenting with Wi-Fi hotspots in the Panhandle last fall, installing them at a rest area along U.S. Highway 287 in Donley County and two rest stops along U.S. 287 in Hardeman County.

Texas is the first state to provide such free access at rest areas, TxDOT said.

Wage hike proposed

DE **DOVER** — The Democratic-led Senate voted 14-7 to approve a measure that would increase the state's minimum wage by one dollar to \$7.15 by Jan. 1, 2006. The measure faces an uphill battle in the Republican-controlled House. A spokesman for Gov. Ruth Ann Minner says she'll sign the bill if it reaches her desk.

Clemency hearing

IN **INDIANAPOLIS** — The Indiana Parole Board heard and scheduled a new round of clemency proceedings for Darnell Williams for June 21.

Williams is to be executed July 9



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

for the shooting deaths of a Lake County couple. He was just days away from being executed last year when the late Gov. Frank O'Bannon granted a stay for additional DNA testing. The tests were inconclusive.

Hands off minors

VA **RICHMOND** — The state is posting billboards with messages such as "Isn't she a little young?" as part of a campaign to dissuade men from having sex with underage girls.

The campaign is aimed at reducing the number of young girls who have children with older men, the Virginia Department of Health said Monday.

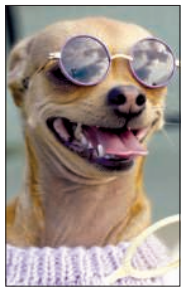
In 1999 and 2000 in Virginia, men older than 18 were responsible for 219 births involving girls who were 13 and 14, the department said.

Messages such as "Isn't she a little young?" and "Sex with a minor, don't go there" also appear on posters, coasters and napkins in bars, restaurants and stores in five cities.

Falcon corralled

NY **NEW YORK** — It wasn't a usual perp chase for police Lt. John Daly. But with help from passers-by, a bread basket and some luck, he was able to corral his suspect — an injured baby peregrine falcon.

"Right away I knew it wasn't an ordinary pigeon," Daly said, referring to New York's peakier feathered inhabitant.



Nice shades

All poses with her sunglasses on at the Ben Green Park tennis courts as she watches her owner Gal Faubus teach tennis in Fort Smith, Ark.

Daly said he saw the 4- to 5-week-old falcon while driving his cruiser in Manhattan on Tuesday. The bird fell into the street near the Waldorf Astoria hotel and oncoming traffic swarmed to avoid hitting the tiny raptor.

With the help of several pedestrians blocking the bird's path and a breadbasket from a restaurant inside the hotel, Daly was able to cage the bird.

The baby falcon was to be turned over to animal control officials for medical care and would likely be released back into the city once it recovers, Daly said.

See no evil

GA **PEACHTREE CITY** — A blind man was charged with reckless conduct after he drove a golf cart through the city with help from an inebriated friend.

Samuel McClain, 35, drove two miles through winding streets — also accompanied by his guide dog — before running into a parked car, police said.

No one was hurt, but McClain and Michael Johnston, 47, were charged with reckless conduct "due to the blatant disregard for public safety," according to police reports.

The report said McClain drove the cart while Johnston gave directions after having six or seven beers.

Peachtree City, about 25 miles south of Atlanta, has about 800 miles of paved cart paths and 9,000 registered carts that residents use for daily errands.

Smoking reprieve

WA **MONROE** — Inmates in Washington state prisons have guards to thank for a four-month reprieve from a smoking ban.

The ban affects inmates and prison staff and was scheduled to take effect July 1. It was postponed to Nov. 1 under a recently negotiated agreement with Teamsters Local 117, said assistant deputy corrections secretary Lynne DeLano.

The union had two concerns with the ban, said Teamsters local union speaker Thal. One concern was that inmates could become violent if they are cut off from tobacco. The other was that guards who were longtime smokers would have difficulty quitting.

State officials have said the chief purpose of the ban is to cut health care costs. At least 17 other states ban smoking in prison.

Bear visits hospital

VA **ROCKY MOUNT** — Perhaps visiting hours were over.

Police shot and killed a full-grown black bear that wandered into a hospital. The 300-pound male bear wandered in front of Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital at about 9:10 p.m. and activated a sensor that opens the hospital's doors, police said.

The bear wandered down a few hallways and into a computer room, said Lt. Karl Martin of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Two police officers yanked the door shut behind it.

Officers planned to sedate the bear, but because the hospital was nearly full they worried about it getting loose.



Raise your hands

Dana Parker, left, of Gardendale, Ala., and Jodie McCreless, of Morris, Ala., sing with the Gardendale First Baptist Church Choir at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.



One hole of a problem

Sioux Falls, S.D.

Heavy rains causes a sinkhole in an office building parking lot in



Fire in the hills

As dusk falls, flames and a wall of smoke rise from a ridge east of homes in Dammeron Valley, Utah. Lightning causes wildfires that were threatening structures and forcing the evacuation of residents in Brookside, Utah, a few miles north of Dammeron Valley.



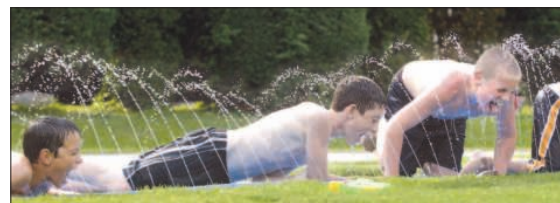
Get on up there Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department K-9 Officer James E. Ginger orders his German shepherd up the obstacle ramp during the United States Police Canine Association Region Three Police Dog Trials outside Martinsburg, W.Va.



From such great heights Dante Leonardi, left, and Roger Reed, right, work on the roof of the Space Needle in Seattle to tie down a giant inflatable replica of the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame.



Out for a swim A swan looks on as a duck emerges from a nest while another duck appears to stand guard at a pond in Fort Smith, Ark.



Cooling off Nick Cavalier, 9, left, Shane Wilson, 12, center, and Anthony Marshall, 11, get a drink of water from a sprinkler while playing in Girard, Ohio.

Streakers beware

OR ASHLAND — Want to streak through downtown or drop your pants in the park in Oregon? You could be slapped with a \$250 fine.

City councilors in the southern Oregon town have passed an anti-nudity ordinance, prohibiting genital exposure downtown and in public parks.

Some residents opposed the ordinance, saying it infringes on personal freedom.

"I prefer that we not be legislating morality," said resident Paul Copeland. "I have a problem with the proposed language of the ordinance. If your neighbor is mowing his lawn naked or doing objectionable things, I don't believe the police are the right way to resolve your dispute."

Thou shalt read this

LA SHREVEPORT — A chaplain is renting 10 billboards to teach the Ten Commandments.

Each month, a different commandment goes up at the direction of Steve Casey, a chaplain for Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries in Stoneville, 15 miles south of Shreveport.

This month, it's No. 3: "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God." For those who might not get it, there's a footnote: "God's last name does not start with a D."

Casey said God gave him the idea while former Judge Roy Moore of Alabama was fighting to keep a stone monument of the Ten Commandments in a state judicial building.

Nuclear grumbling

TX AMARILLO — Largely tucked away from public view, technicians work with radioactive and explosive materials around the clock at the 25-square-mile Pantex complex — the nation's only nuclear weapons assembly and disassembly plant.

But some of the 250,000 people living near the plant have become increasingly concerned about how Pantex's operations affect public safety and the environment.

Federal inspectors found two safety violations in the past several months that were classified as minor but raised serious questions about employee training and procedures.

Interesting motivator

KY COVINGTON — Schools Superintendent Jack Moreland thought a little strip tease would be a good morale booster for his female employees. He may rethink the idea next year.

The women workers loved watching buff boys take it off, but at least one person was ticked off after Moreland shelled out \$420 to send 20 female staff members to a Chippendales show.

An anonymous letter to the state Office of Education Accountability accused Moreland of using school-district funds to pay for the strip show. Moreland said he spent \$420 of his own money for the show — and faxed his personal credit-card receipt to investigators.

Bryan Jones, a lawyer for the Office of Education Accountability, said he couldn't confirm or deny whether his office looked into a complaint.

History for sale

TX SAN ANTONIO — A copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence and a proxy note that secured the nourishment of Alamo warriors are among several pieces of Texas history that will be on auction blocks.

The rare historical documents have long been kept in private collections and will be auctioned off in New York and New Hampshire. Historians and dealers said they hope the artifacts eventually end up in public display in the Lone Star state.

"I would love to see them in state hands — these really belong in Texas," Dorothy Sloan, an appraiser and dealer from Austin, said in the San Antonio Express-News.

Costly care

RI PROVIDENCE — The top expense for state taxpayers is health care for the needy, according to a report from the Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council. Twenty-eight cents of every dollar the state spends is on Medicaid. The program is expected to cost \$1.7 billion in the next fiscal year and enroll nearly one in every five Rhode Islanders.

No more reunion?

FL DAYTONA BEACH — Merchants who fought 20 years ago to save rowdy Bike Week won't do the same for the annual Black College Reunion. Bike Week generated substantial revenue, but BCR does not.

Daytona Beachside Redevelopment Board president Mike Shallow says his city is less tolerant unless an event is what he calls a "cash cow."

Shelter out of cash

IN FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The city's only 24-hour emergency shelter for children will close in 90 days because it has run out of money. Park Center CEO Paul Wilson said cuts in state assistance and rising health care costs make it unfeasible to continue operating the Daybreak Children's Shelter. The shelter's annual budget is about \$700,000.

Insurance change costly

CO DENVER — A change in the state's auto insurance law is costing local hospitals millions of dollars, officials say.

Last year, lawmakers seeking to lower auto insurance premiums passed a bill eliminating requirements for personal injury protection.

New hospitals are providing more free care to thousands of accident victims without health insurance who also have no medical coverage from auto insurance.

Plant closing

MI DETROIT — Union members rejected an agreement that would have saved an automotive supplier plant. Federal-Mogul Corp. hoped to win over \$5 million in wage and benefit concessions in exchange for keeping the Greenville plant open and preserving its 310 jobs.

Federal-Mogul said it will close the plant and move the work to a place where costs are cheaper.

Stories and photos from wire services



KEY: Sunny ☀️ P. Cloudy ☁️ Mostly cloudy ☁️ Cloudy ☁️ Shower ☔ Tornado 🌪️ Rain ☔ Rainbow 🌈 Snow ❄️ Cold front 🌊 Warm front 🌊 Trough 🌊 Occluded front 🌊 Stat. front 🌊 Low 🌊 High 🌊

AFRICA

Cape Town	HI	60	MO	Mogadishu	84	75
Dakar	82	71	CI	Nairobi	74	52
Pretoria	84	73	ZA	Rabat	75	61
Windhoek	82	67	NA	Tripoli	85	71

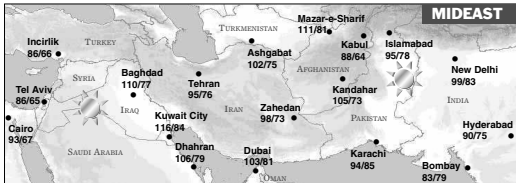
THE WORLD

Amsterdam	HI	60	49	Moscow	89	77
Atlanta	88	84	GA	Mexico City	73	55
Beijing	82	62	PR	Montreal	71	54
Bombay	82	69	IN	Norwich	108	84
Buenos Aires	84	74	AR	Paris	80	68
Calcutta	79	68	IN	Rome	79	67
Helsinki	82	67	FI	Sofia	79	57
Hong Kong	80	62	HK	Sydney	56	44
London	76	61	UK	Tokyo	82	72

TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

Alabama	HI	80	OK	Colorado	80	50
Alaska	80	74	AK	Connecticut	83	50
Arizona	92	64	AZ	Delaware	80	50
Arkansas	82	50	AR	District of Columbia	82	50
California	82	50	CA	Florida	82	50
Colorado	80	50	CO	Georgia	82	50
Connecticut	82	50	CT	Hawaii	82	50
Delaware	80	50	DE	Idaho	82	50
District of Columbia	82	50	DC	Illinois	82	50
Florida	82	50	FL	Indiana	82	50
Georgia	82	50	GA	Iowa	82	50
Hawaii	82	50	HI	Kansas	82	50
Idaho	82	50	ID	Kentucky	82	50
Illinois	82	50	IL	Louisiana	82	50
Indiana	82	50	IN	Maine	82	50
Iowa	82	50	IA	Maryland	82	50
Kansas	82	50	KS	Massachusetts	82	50
Kentucky	82	50	KY	Michigan	82	50
Louisiana	82	50	LA	Minnesota	82	50
Maine	82	50	ME	Mississippi	82	50
Maryland	82	50	MD	Montana	82	50
Massachusetts	82	50	MA	Nebraska	82	50
Michigan	82	50	MI	Nevada	82	50
Minnesota	82	50	MN	New Hampshire	82	50
Mississippi	82	50	MS	New Jersey	82	50
Montana	82	50	MT	New Mexico	82	50
Nebraska	82	50	NE	New York	82	50
Nevada	82	50	NV	North Carolina	82	50
New Hampshire	82	50	NH	North Dakota	82	50
New Jersey	82	50	NJ	Oklahoma	82	50
New Mexico	82	50	NM	Oregon	82	50
New York	82	50	NY	Pennsylvania	82	50
North Carolina	82	50	NC	Rhode Island	82	50
North Dakota	82	50	ND	South Carolina	82	50
Oklahoma	82	50	OK	South Dakota	82	50
Oregon	82	50	OR	Tennessee	82	50
Pennsylvania	82	50	PA	Texas	82	50
Rhode Island	82	50	RI	Utah	82	50
South Carolina	82	50	SC	Vermont	82	50
South Dakota	82	50	SD	Virginia	82	50
Tennessee	82	50	TN	Washington	82	50
Texas	82	50	TX	West Virginia	82	50
Utah	82	50	UT	Wisconsin	82	50
Vermont	82	50	VT	Wyoming	82	50
Virginia	82	50	VA			
Washington	82	50	WA			
West Virginia	82	50	WV			
Wisconsin	82	50	WI			
Wyoming	82	50	WY			

MIDEAST



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelex: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the mid-40s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the lower 60s and lows in the lower 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Mostly cloudy with afternoon thunderstorms. Highs in the mid-70s to lower 80s and lows in the mid-50s.

France: Partly cloudy with highs in the mid-60s and lows in the upper 40s in the north. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the lower 60s in the south.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 40s.

Southern Germany: Mostly cloudy with thunderstorms. Highs in the 60s and lows in the upper 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the mid-70s and lows in the mid-50s.

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s and lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Southern Italy: Mostly cloudy with rain showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s and lows in the lower 60s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 70s and lows in the upper 50s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain showers. Highs in the upper 50s and lows in the upper 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 70s on the coast and inland and lower 50s in the south. Lows in the upper 50s to lower 60s.

Turkey: Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 80s on the north coast and inland and in the upper 70s in the south. Lows in the upper 60s in the south and along the coast with the lows in the upper 40s inland.

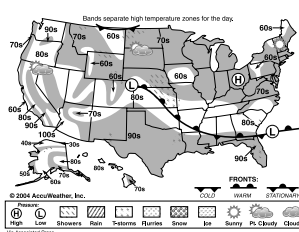
SUN & MOON

	Sunrise (London)	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise (Frankfurt)	0516	0516	0516
Sunset (London)	2124	2124	2124
Sunset (Frankfurt)	2139	2139	2139

	New moon	First cr.	Full moon	Last cr.
	06/17	06/25	7/02	07/09

THE UNITED STATES TODAY

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



Scheduled to **ETS** or **PCS**?

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.

Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily.

STARS & STRIPES

Sunday Horoscope

Happy Father's Day. The sun moves into Cancer, where it will be until July 22. During this period, much of our attention goes to domestic issues. We discover what would make our home sweeter, certainly in terms of the physical aspects but also in regards to the relationships built there. Loyalties are made clear during this time.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (June 20): You're not only driven — you know exactly what you want this year. The next seven weeks are fabulous for your love life, and when you're happy, you do better at work as well.

Employment seekers find a premium situation in August. Family is generous with you this fall — loved ones are surprisingly willing to go. Lucky love signs are Pisces and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get fresh air and exercise — you need it. If you can entertain at home, it's great for your personal life. Catching new ideas on surface. Stylish touches win points. Domestic kitchen is now affordable — shop.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Daring moves improve your personal life. Call the one on your mind, and end the limbo you both are in. Someone you helped in the past repays you, just in time for you to repay someone else. Redecorate to improve your mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You'll have plenty of energy, so get tedious business out of the way early. A wave of uncharacteristic impatience may come over you. Your brain processes information at high speeds — avoid interrupting a slow speaker.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): A romantic encounter could turn into an adventure. Travel and getting lost are indicated. Bring a map. Social relationships are lively. Give company your undivided attention rather than trying to impress them with stories.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Regarding those personal goals: Ask a reliable friend to check back with

you and make sure you're doing what you said you would. An important communication matter needs to be resolved. Go in with your defenses down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A romance is in danger of proceeding too quickly — pull back. Slow progress is ultimately more fulfilling.

Family gatherings are featured. You don't need to talk up your accomplishments — an attitude of success says it all.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): It's very satisfying to finally work out an important relationship issue — it all goes smoothly if you have the guts to say what you mean and mean what you say. Bonus: You'll find lost possessions while cleaning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You have a lot on your mind, but don't allow yourself to be distracted from your original plan. More socializing and less looking for love give you the right attitude to attract just the one you're not looking for.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can in the fun, since you get energy from a group or, better yet, a crowd. A flirtation gets more exciting. You'll enjoy it if you can share the play by play with a trusted friend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The bigger the idea, the more likely you are to make it real. Having a backup plan could save you from repeating a past mistake. You could get an offer that is simply too little too late.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revive romantic commitment, or be brave enough to step out on your own. Your desires and expectations are changing, so don't be surprised if you do something that is very uncharacteristic of you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone else's loss is your gain. You've got the momentum of a positive string of events affecting your personal life. Make the most of this. Send a love letter, if that's what it takes. Problem solving is your specialty.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Illison



Remembering Dad's wisdom on Father's Day and every day

Dear Abby: My dad, Alvin Hemmerberg, who is now 78, is a retired farmer living in Nebraska. He and my mom, Elaine, have been married for 50 years. A few years ago, as I reflected upon his role in my life, I realized what a strong role model he has been through his daily rituals and work. Even though I didn't grow up to be a farmer, what he taught me has translated into how I conduct my daily life.

I put some of the lessons I learned from him in writing and gave it to him for his birthday.

I suspect many sons and daughters have similar sentiments about their dads on this Father's Day. There may be sons and daughters who would enjoy reading them, passing them along to their fathers, and telling them that they, too, learned important life lessons that only a dad can teach.

— Gary Hemmerberg, Grapevine, Texas

Dear Gary: The wisdom you learned from your father is classic and deserves to be shared. You have done him proud.

Dear Abby



Read on:

What I Learned From You

Make Hay While the Sun Shines. When it's sunny and the forecast is good, bring out the equipment and take advantage of the circumstances of the day. Not every day is sunny, and not every day in life brings opportunity. I learned from you that when times are good we should make the most of them.

Sharpen Tools on a Rainy Day. When it rained and we couldn't go to the field, we used our time wisely by sharpening our tools, doing maintenance, or other tasks that would give us a jump start on the season. I learned from you that rainy days are actually a gift from God to refresh, renew and make us better.

Keep Machines Cleaned and Maintained. We washed the equipment and conducted routine maintenance as an automatic ritual. It made them look years newer than their actual age, and cost less to operate in the long run. That attitude you instilled in me continues to this day. I take care of my belongings and treat

them with respect.

Stay Between the Lines. A clean field requires staying between the rows when cultivating it. When you stray outside the rows, you'll needlessly destroy precious crops. I stay within the lines in my personal life and what's right for my business associates. I learned from you to be careful not to do anything that would destroy what we cultivate.

Take the High Road. An improper act shouldn't result in an improper response. Better to take the high road and be able to hold your head up, knowing you did the right thing. I learned from you that often the best response is silence, and that good fortune results when we treat people with respect.

Go to Church Every Sunday and Trust God. We did it. It's a lifelong habit you instilled in me. It has helped me live the real priorities of life and family. And, equally important, it has given me the freedom to know that at the end of the day, and at the end of time, everything will be all right.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #8440, Los Angeles, CA 90080. Letters can be sent to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueppress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

WWII Memorial is tribute to both veterans and fathers

Dear Readers: Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father-figures around the world. Here's a little poem that was sent to us. We do not know the author, but we thought it expressed a loving sentiment. Enjoy:

What Makes A Dad
God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages.

The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from "Feeling Forgotten," whose husband never could remember special

occasions.

For seven years, I was married to a man who always came home with gifts and showered me on holidays, but it wasn't enough to make him a good husband. We divorced six years ago, and I have watched this man neglect his duties as a father to our 10-year-old daughter. Meanwhile, I married "Alan." Alan can never remember so much as a meal on my birthday, but I wouldn't trade him for the world. While my ex uses his money to take fancy vacations, my daughter and I know we can count on Alan. He is a perfect dad in every way. He may not remember holidays, but he never forgets Girl Scout meetings or school functions. I have yet to see him come home with a bundle of roses, but he never fails to hand over his paycheck so we can meet our bills. He is honest, loyal and faithful to me and my daughter. I wouldn't change a thing.

— **Feeling Loved in Kansas**
Dear Kansas: What a wonderful tribute to your husband, and how appropriate for him to see it on Father's Day. We're betting it will make his day.

Dear Annie: The National World War II Memorial was

recently dedicated in Washington, D.C. Please tell your readers that they can add their loved one's name, whether alive or deceased, to the registry by going online at www.wiwmemoial.com. I sent information and a picture of my dad, and it makes me so proud to go to the site and see the page on my father.

I would like to say thanks to the veterans of WWII — and all of our vets. — B.

Dear B: Thank you for mentioning the World War II Memorial and the Registry of Remembrance, an individual listing of Americans who contributed to the war effort. Any U.S. citizen who helped win the war, whether a veteran or someone on the home front, male or female, is eligible for the Registry.

You can register your information at www.wiwmemoial.com or write to the National World War II Memorial, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 201, Arlington, VA 22201. If you know any veterans who do not have access to the Internet, please offer to help enter the information so their memories can be preserved as part of the World War II Memorial.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime writers for the National World War II Memorial. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creative Connections, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Universal Press Syndicate

On high seas, 'devil to pay'

The word "devil" in the expression "the devil to pay" does not refer to the theological "devil" but to some nautical term. Can you shed any light on this?

We are often told that the expressions "the devil to pay" and "between the devil and the deep (blue) sea" do not refer to Satan but to a perfectly innocent nautical ship's hull, on or below the waterline.

"The devil to pay" is supposed to be a short form of "the devil to pay and no pitch hot." This interpretation depends on a homonym of the verb "pitch," which means "to apply pitch."

Unfortunately for the nautical explanation, both expressions are attested much earlier than is the requisite sense of "devil."

We first find "the devil to pay" in a poem written about 1500. The

couplet, rendered in modern English, goes "It would be better to stay at home forever than to serve here to please — or pay — the devil." We have no evidence for the longer "the devil to pay and no pitch hot" until 1828.

"Between the devil and the deep sea" goes back at least to 1637. Robert Murno, in "His Expedition with the Worcester Scout Regiment called Mack-Keves Regiment," wrote, "I, with my party, did lie on our poste, as betwixt the devil and the deep sea."

The "devil" in a ship's hull, on the other hand, is first reported in William Henry Smyth's "Sailor's Word-Book: An Alphabetical Digest of Nautical Terms," compiled about 1865.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Word-Book, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Annie's Mailbox



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Stop the name calling

I'd like to comment on "Bush's leadership piece" (June 14).

The writer complains about a previous writer saying, "The author should look at his facts better ..." and then he proceeds to state that "Kofi Annan and the boys couldn't care less about America, or its servicemen."

Is that a fact? Or an opinion? Or how about "... Al Gore, or John Kerry, who can't make up his mind at all about anything!"

He then tries to bolster his lack of facts with name-calling: "I get so tired of reading about all the Kool-Aid drinking, tree-hugging liberals ..."

Yet, I rarely see "beer-swilling, fire-arm-molesting conservatives," mentioned in print.

When the news media are comfortable with printing name-calling and regarding people who oppose differently as less than human, I'm haunted with the feeling that I've seen it all before, in the newspapers of Nazi Germany of the 1930s, and their destruction of liberals and Jews.

Let's have different opinions, by all means, but let's remember that we are all created in God's image, and therefore we all deserve a bit of respect.

Tibor Pollerman
Suffolk, England

Differing opinions are good

This is in response to "Save Your Tears" (June 14).

I read the Stars and Stripes every day, and every day I read letters to the editor. It amazes me how many people feel like they speak for everyone in the military just because they wear it.

The service is a microcosm of society. Many people in the service have differing views.

You see, one of the great things about our country is that we have what many other nations do not: the ability to have political discussions.

Why is it that every time someone has a dissenting view of the president or the reasons why we engaged in warfare in Iraq, he or she is almost immediately labeled a flaming, tree-hugging liberal who would just as soon offer Osama bin Laden a cigarette and a beer than see him tried for his crimes? That is an awful assertion.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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The partisanship that is so pervasive in our society drives me crazy. It just seems like too many people don't want to have intellectual conversations.

Unfortunately, the way they think is so often dictated by either the R or the D in front of a politician they voted for. However, we have to have these discussions — it is needed in any Democratic society or Democracy just doesn't work.

What would happen to us as a society if we did not have such discussions? What would it be like if everyone who had a dissenting view kept it to themselves? Would we be any different than many of the places in the world where such things just simply are not tolerated? I don't think so.

While I may agree with many things an elected leader says, when I disagree it is not only my right but my responsibility to call him/her on it.

Personally I commend people whose views differ from mine. As a matter of fact, I relish it. It gives me the opportunity to hear their thoughts on the same subject from a different perspective. I learn from it.

I think it is unfair and disrespectful to anybody to crush and belittle people who oppose this war while at the same time say they support the troops.

What's wrong with that? It simply acknowledges the fact that we live in a society where majority rules, while at the same time protecting the rights of the minority. It's called democracy.

They say: I don't agree with WHY you

are there but at the same time "I bid you good wishes." It's a stark contrast to the Vietnam era when protesters hated everything about that war, even the soldiers who had no choice but to fight in it.

I too volunteered to serve. I did it for my own reasons and I did it before there was ever any war on terrorism on the horizon. At that time, Osama bin Laden's name didn't even weigh too much on the minds of our intelligence community.

Everyone knows that in the military, the president is the elected leader of our nation and therefore the commander-in-chief. It's an indisputable fact. I'll go anywhere and do anything he tells me, up to and including paying the ultimate price. We all sacrifice. Some more than others, but we all do it.

However, I feel that because of this sacrifice, not in spite of it, we owe it to one another and the people back home to voice our opinions. So to the writer of "Troops Not Forgotten" (June 7), I say thank you for your voice and keep those prayers and care packages coming.

Sir Wayne Wardlaw
Camp Udairi, Kuwait

Fuel prices too high

Officials with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service use the "excuse" that prices have risen too much in the States, so they have to raise their prices as well.

Unless I am mistaken, AAFES is not paying any local, state or federal taxes on the gas it sells. The civilian stations in the States add local, state and federal taxes to the price they pay for their supplies, which brings it to the figure they sell it for.

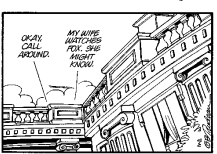
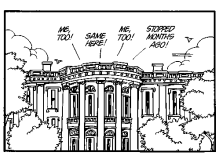
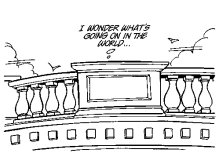
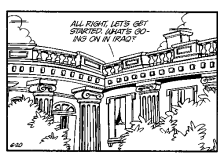
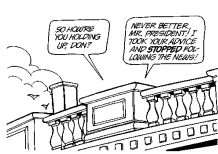
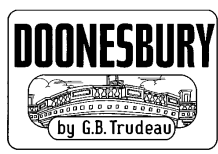
In other words, why is AAFES charging the same prices as in the States when they are not paying taxes on their supply?

I am in Germany, but I have seen AAFES prices in the States. They are the same as the stations outside the gates of the installation. If it is true that AAFES does not pay taxes on its supply, why then does it charge the same prices as stations outside the gates?

Of course this is not true here in Europe, but still, to use the prices in the States as justification for raising gasoline prices here is absurd, if indeed they are not paying those same taxes.

So tell me, why are we paying more than \$2.66 per gallon here?

Ron Rodriguez
Frieburg, Germany



OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Wary GIs need a hand The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

U.S. war planners' miscalculations continue to exact their costs. Senior officials have insisted from the outset that there was no shortage of troops to cope with the postwar insurgency in Iraq, and that if commanders ask for more troops they will get them — knowing that commanders wouldn't ask for what their civilian bosses are disinclined to provide. Now the Army has admitted that it's overstretched. Many soldiers, both active-duty and reservist, are being required to extend their tours if their units are to be redeployed to Iraq or Afghanistan. In many cases that means an enforced delay of their scheduled separation from what is officially an all-volunteer army....

As the war is done is done, but now thousands of young Americans must endure the rigors of front-line duty for as long as they're needed.

In the meantime, those — especially in Congress — who have faulted the administration for asking too much of too few should press for sensible redeployments, but not reduction in war-inspired calls for expanding the Army.

Name of right approach: Wait Erie (Pa.) Times-News

Ronald Reagan would no doubt find the politicians' rush to name various objects after him unseemly and embarrassing. Reagan was, naturally, modest, an aw-shucks Jimmy Stewart president — that's one reason people liked him. So in the wake of President Reagan's death and subsequent outpouring of affection, Congress must choose Reagan commemorations wisely and cautiously....

Reagan's name already appears on an airline carrier. The ship received his name while he was living, an extraordinary honor. The Washington airport favored by government officials bears Reagan's name. Within walking distance of the Capitol and White House is the Reagan International Trade Center, a huge monument if ever there was one. There's even a Mount Reagan in New Hampshire. So it is not as if Reagan will be forgotten. Americans have time to think about a decent, proper commemoration of the 40th president.

No one must rush to decide. If Congress rushes to commemorate, after a few years' time they will find themselves with kitsch and proper reassessment of the nation's history. So the advice given to a grieving spouse: Do nothing for a year.

Don't rock the establishment South Florida (Fort Lauderdale) Sun Sentinel

The "establishment clause" of the U.S. Constitution is a vital pillar of American democracy.

It prohibits government from establishing a state religion, which history has shown invariably results in oppression. To argue the First Amendment also prohibits the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, however, is stretching constitutional reasoning into the realm of the absurd.

In a decision that will satisfy no one, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday dogged the question of the constitutionality of the pledge by ruling the person who brought suit in order to ban its recitation from his daughter's school and other public schools did not have standing to do so....

The nation has "In God We Trust" emblazoned on its money and the Supreme Court

...AND TO
THE REPUBLIC
FOR WHICH
IT STANDS
ONE NATION--



AP/WIDEWORLD.COM

opens its sessions with the words, "God save the United States and this honorable court."

These references to God, and the reference in the pledge, certainly don't constitute or even foster the establishment of a state religion or jeopardize the principle of separation of church and state. The mention of God is quite benign, and certainly not unconstitutional.

Heard enough from Enron The Press & Sun Bulletin, Binghamton, N.Y.

Stinginess and selfishness are not uncommon in today's society — indeed, they are manifest in the ways Americans drive and behave — but still it's chilling to hear people openly mock the suffering of others.

And it's infuriating to hear those same people boast and laugh about causing that suffering. Such casual cruelty is disgusting and disheartening. Is this what America has come to? This isn't about military guards in a war zone. It's about highly paid Americans in comfortable work places gloating over a crisis they helped create. It's about the obscenity-filled tapes of Enron energy traders recorded during the West Coast power crisis....

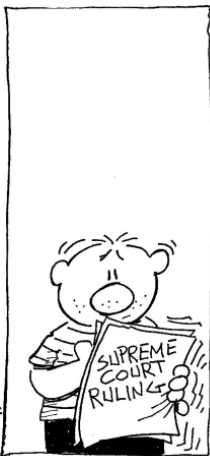
The Justice Department reportedly has thousands of hours of this cruel, only a fraction of which has been aired. Now some members of Congress say they want all the tapes released.

That's probably a good idea, but what little we've already heard is discouraging enough. It's still possible to conduct business honorably, and many companies do, but the fear is that this isn't isolated behavior — that there are others out there right now, gouging and gloating. And mocking the whole notion of integrity.

No faith in Republican tactics Star Tribune of Minneapolis

Since Republicans won a majority in both houses of Congress in 2002, a handful of GOP leaders have shown an audacious and appalling tendency to use the tools of government to maintain their hold on political power.

First came a flagrant gerrymandering project that would have given Republicans a lock on congressional races in Texas, then an effort to delay enforcement of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law by the Federal Election Commission. The lat-



est tactic is a disturbing effort to change the federal tax code and enlist hundreds of Protestant churches into the Bush re-election campaign....

Churches, educational groups and charities enjoy tax-exempt status precisely because they perform work on behalf of the broad public interest — whether it be feeding the hungry or housing the homeless. Using churches for overt political activity is quite another matter. It could convert a house of worship into a tax shelter for political contributions and, in effect, use one taxpayer's money to support the political candidate of another....

Dismissing the bill between worship and politics is a threat both to the idea of secular American government and freedom of religious expression, and leaders of the U.S. House should know better.

Bush worked great with G8 The Post and Courier, Charleston, S.C.

The international summit on Sea Island, Ga., almost came off well enough to restore one's faith in these annual get-togethers.

The world's leaders took off their ties, relaxed on sandy beaches, made good big decisions, and left still talking to each other. In today's fractious world, those are no small achievements.

Credit George W. Bush. The president's relentlessly upbeat approach to such seemingly intractable problems as Iraq, Middle East democracy and AIDS set the tone for the meeting. The president's re-election campaign must have been thrilled with the photo opportunities showing harmony among world leaders on the subject of Iraqi independence, given the charge from contender John Kerry that Bush has failed to obtain world support for his policies.

Last call for ladies night? The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch

In a classic case of a solution without a problem, the state of New Jersey has taken action to rescue the drinking public from that grievous injustice known as ladies night.

The state's Civil Rights Division ruled recently in favor of a man who complained that the common promotional gimmick amounts to gender discrimination.

The Coastline in Cherry Hill offers special deals to women every week. The \$5 cover charge is waived, and drinks are cheaper for women.

--UNDER GOD--



If anyone is going to criticize ladies nights, it should be feminists. Advertising cheap drinks for women also draws men who like the idea of being around lots of women who are drinking.

The Coastline's owner acknowledged as much when he declared that 70 percent of his ladies night patrons are men.

What better argument could there be that ladies night doesn't hurt men?

System still spared Nichols Detroit Free Press

It was mildly surprising and no doubt vexing to some of the victims' families that an Oklahoma jury refused (on June 11) to sentence Michigan native Terry Nichols to death for his role in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

The relatives will have to settle for accountability and the knowledge that Nichols, who will be sentenced in August, will never again draw breath as a free man. He already is serving a life sentence for his federal court conviction in the bombing.

Nichols' partner in terror, Timothy McVeigh, who detonated the truck bomb that killed 168 people, was executed in 2001.

But the federal and state juries, while agreeing that Nichols was part of the terrible bombing plot and surely could have done something to stop McVeigh, seem swayed by the fact that he was miles away, in Kansas, when McVeigh acted. The bombing, the worst act of terror on American soil until the Sept. 11, 2001, events, killed 168 people, 19 of them children in a day care center. McVeigh, a disaffected veteran of the first Gulf War, described the children as "collateral damage."

Nichols, who met McVeigh in the Army, has remained silent in his own defense. In a book published before his death, McVeigh tried to minimize Nichols' role, but evidence showed that while he may not have known exactly what McVeigh was going to do, Nichols helped assemble the truck bomb and stash a getaway car in Oklahoma City.

The state of Oklahoma brought its case against him with execution in mind, arguing for the death penalty as ultimate justice for still-grieving families. Two juries have now said otherwise. There's no small irony in the fact that the government system for which Nichols shared McVeigh's contempt produced a verdict that spared his life.

Roddick, Federer open new era at Wimbledon

Younger generation hints at potential new rivalries

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

The Associated Press

ANDY RODDICK, England's number one, hints that he takes to be a transcendent tennis star.

He boasts a record-breaking 150 mph serve worthy of a highlight reel that makes opponents whiff and spectators gasp. He backs that up with a ferocious forehand and the rest of his game is steadily improving under Brad Gilbert's tutelage.

It helps that he plays with a Connors-esque energy that can lead to high-fiving fans after a fantastic point.

He even has a potential career-long foil: No. 1 Roger Federer.

And unlike 12 months ago at Wimbledon, where play starts on Monday, Roddick now possesses something essential to consistently contending in Grand Slam tournaments: a Grand Slam title, earned last September in the U.S. Open.

"I was playing really well at Wimbledon last year, but maybe I didn't have the belief that I have now. Now having won one, that is definitely an advantage for me," Roddick said. "I'd always talked about, before I'd won a Grand Slam, that the only fear is the fear of the unknown."

"People would ask 'Can you win a Slam?' and I would say 'I'll

let you know' — and that's a big difference."

It's also a big reason why, despite all the apparent depth in tennis (something also interpreted as a lack of top talent), no one would be surprised if Roddick and defending champion Federer square off July 4 for the championship at the All England Club.

A changing of the guard could be in the offing. With Andre Agassi out, citing a hip injury, it's the first time in 16 years neither he nor Pete Sampras, now retired, is entered.

"I'm disappointed that Andre isn't able to play at Wimbledon this year. I know how much it means to fans to have him on court, and I hope he's able to play soon," Roddick said. "There will be a lot of action for fans to keep up with since the rest of us will be giving it all we've got to try and win the tournament."

That, of course, includes Federer, on a 17-match grass-court winning streak and one of just three past champions in the men's field. The others are Lleyton Hewitt (2002) and Goran Ivanisevic (2001), who hasn't played here since claiming his lone major title and is retiring after the tournament.

"Next year, I'm going to come as a member with a tie and drink the tea," Ivanisevic, 32, said. "But this is going to be my last



American Andy Roddick has been steadily improving under coach Brad Gilbert, and enters Wimbledon with one Grand Slam title.

professional match and there's no better tournament than Wimbledon to end it."

The man known as Never Borin' Goran isn't the only past champion relishing one last hurrah. Nine-time winner Martina Navratilova, 47, and walking away from the game at season's end, competes in singles here for the first time since 1994.

With TV ratings in decline and some observers worrying about tennis' direction, novelty acts like Navratilova or Ivanisevic can draw a bit of extra attention. But it's the real rivalries that drive popularity. Think Sampras-Agassi or Jimmy Connors-John McEnroe-Bjorn Borg.

How about Roddick-Federer? It's not a done deal that they'll meet in the Wimbledon final, naturally. A group of players could intervene, including Tim Henman, who will reprise his role as the Great British Hope for the locals' first male champion since 1936.

Others include 2002 finalist David Nalbandian, Mardy Fish (the only player to win a set against Federer last year), Swedes Robin Soderling and Joachim Johansson, and (if healthy) Marat Safin, last seen yelling at his hand blisters in the French Open.

Of that group, only Safin owns a Slam title, and for many talented players, it's the first that's the toughest. Federer followed his breakthrough at Wimbledon by winning the Australian Open, part of his tour-high five titles in 2004.

"I feel like there are not many guys left who really have an edge on me," says Federer, who is 5-1 against Roddick.

If Roddick, 21, is power and brushwork, Federer, 22, is versatility and cool. Roddick's only loss in 16 grass matches was to Federer in the 2003 Wimbledon semifinals.

"I see Federer becoming more and more the Borg of the 2000s,

WIMBLEDON 2004

A smashing good time

Despite the absence of marquee players like Andre Agassi and Gaston Gaudio, the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club will host the 127th Wimbledon championship.



Wimbledon 0 10 mi 0 10 km

Winning singles players

Men singles	
Pete Sampras	7
W.C. Renshaw	7
Women Singles	
M. Navratilova	9
H.N. Wills	8
F.S. Moody	8

Past singles winners

Men	
Roger Federer	2003
Lleyton Hewitt	2002
Goran Ivanisevic	2001
Pete Sampras	2000

June 21 - July 4



SOURCE: Wimbledon

AP

with his game and style," said Dick Enberg, who first called Wimbledon on TV 25 years ago. "I don't see him going away for a while."

When it comes to a high Q-rating, Roddick seemingly has all the ingredients. He has a sense of humor and a willingness to promote the sport. He went from dating an actress to dating a model. And he has a cool nickname, albeit one shared with another athlete: A-Rod.

"Roddick gets it," Enberg said. "What I like about him, at his age, is he understands the responsibility of making that connection with the audience."

The Williams sisters remain the sport's most marketable stars, its biggest attractions on and off court. But beset by injuries, they haven't been at their best in a year — since Serena beat Venus in the Wimbledon final.

Both lost in the French Open quarterfinals, the first time they were bounced in the same round of any tournament.

With top-ranked Justine Henin-Hardenne and 20 Kim Clijsters sidelined, the sisters' history on grass makes them the most likely title contenders and they could meet in the final. Serena jumped from a No. 10 world ranking to a No. 1 seeding, and

Venus went from No. 8 to a No. 3 seed.

Serena won the last two Wimbledon and Venus played in the past four finals, winning in 2000-01. Since combining to claim nine of 13 Slam titles, though, they've gone three majors without so much as a final appearance.

"Wimbledon is the perfect place for them to get that confidence back," said ESPN's Mary Joe Fernandez, a former pro.

"They were dominating for a while, and they raised the level of women's tennis. They forced everyone to get stronger and get fitter. That's what the Belgians did, and now the Russians are."

Anastasia Myskina became the first Russian woman to win a major by beating countrywoman Elena Dementieva in the French Open final.

Now the question becomes: Who's next? Six of the 13 seeded women at Wimbledon are Russians, and No. 8 Svetlana Kuznetsova, No. 10 Nadia Petrova, No. 12 Vera Zvonareva or No. 13 Maria Sharapova could make a run.

Just 17, can Sharapova take the giant leap to major champion?

"Whenever I go into a tournament, I never think I'm going to lose," Sharapova said. "Considering I've been playing well on grass the last three years and as a junior, I think 'Why not?'"



Switzerland's Roger Federer is on a 17-match grass-court winning streak as he prepares to defend his singles title at Wimbledon.

AP

July 13 - All-Star Game, Houston.
July 25 - Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
Oct. 5 - Playoffs begin.
Oct. 12 - League championship series begins.
Oct. 23 - World Series begins.
Nov. 9-12 - General managers meeting, Key Biscayne, Fla.
Dec. 10-13 - Winter meetings, Anaheim, Calif.

Big Unit can't halt Tampa's streak

BY MEL REISNER
The Associated Press

PHOENIX Randy Johnson's momentum was no match for Tampa Bay.

The Devil Rays stretched their franchise-record winning streak to nine games, beating the Big Unit and the Arizona Diamondbacks 6-2 Friday night behind Jose Cruz Jr.'s three-run homer.

Ray Sanchez added a run-scoring triple and Geoff Blum an RBI double for the Devil Rays, who have won 20 of 26 overall and have won the best interleague record in the majors at 9-1. They also snapped Johnson's six-game winning streak in the first meeting between the 1998 expansion teams.

"We're getting hits at the right time," Julio Lugo said. "I think we're going to give a hard time to anybody that faces us."

John Halama (3-1), put in the rotation after 2½ months in the bullpen, allowed two runs on six hits and a walk in five innings in his first start since Sept. 4, when he pitched for the Rays in a 7-5 loss to Baltimore. The win was Halama's first as a starter since beating the Orioles 6-4 in Oakland on Aug. 28.

Jorge Sosa pitched three scoreless innings in relief for Tampa Bay.

Johnson (9-5) started his best winning streak in three years with a perfect game against Atlanta on May 18. He retired his first seven batters Friday night, but the Devil Rays got to him for Cruz's three-run homer in the fourth inning and scored two more runs in the sixth.

After that, Johnson was lifted for reliever Scott Service, who allowed Blum's RBI double in the seventh.

"It didn't seem like he was throwing as hard as I've seen him throw in the past," said Tampa Bay manager Lou Piniella, who managed Johnson in Seattle. "But Randy competes. I remember when I first got there how he used to throw a lot of pitches. Now, he economizes."

Johnson was charged with five runs on eight hits and a walk in six innings. He struck out a season-low four.

"That was a bad game, a poorly pitched game on my part," he said. "And when you don't have your good stuff against a team that's playing well, it shows."

The win was a bad game, a poorly pitched game on my part," he said. "And when you don't have your good stuff against a team that's playing well, it shows."

L.A. gets dream game from Weaver

BY BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Giving up three runs off bloop hits would have rattled Jeff Weaver in his days with the New York Yankees. The New York fans would have booed him mightily, too.

Now pitching for Los Angeles, Weaver steadied himself after a rough third inning Friday night and was the winner in the Dodgers' 6-3 victory over the Yankees. Juan Encarnacion drove in the go-ahead run and Los Angeles won the first regular-season meeting between two of baseball's most storied franchises.

"Weaver has the ability to become a winning pitcher," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "I thought he kept his emotions under control."

Having been booed out of New York, Weaver was excited to face his former teammates.

"Any time you face the team you played with last, you're looking for a little redemption in kind of show them what they might have lost," he said.

Playing before the largest regular-season crowd (55,207), in Dodger Stadium history, the Yankees lost back-to-back games in their first time in a month.

Weaver impressed former teammate Jason Giambi, who was 1-for-4 with two strikes.

"We got some hits off him and put some runs on the board early, but he didn't get frustrated," Giambi said. "He got stronger and stronger as the game went up, and we just couldn't put anything together after that."



Jeff Weaver limited his former team to three runs in six innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the New York Yankees 6-3 on Friday night.

The teams hadn't played in a game that meant anything since the 1981 World Series, which the Dodgers won 4-2 by sweeping the final four games. Of their 11 World Series meetings, the Yankees won eight, seven when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn.

The lively crowd heartily booed the Yankees, especially former Dodger Gary Sheffield, during pregame introductions, and frequently shouted a derogatory chant about the visitors.

"It was incredible," said Dave Roberts, whose two-run single helped the Dodgers tie the game in the fourth. "I've been here for three years and I haven't seen it like this. To see the support and the excitement and the energy just filtered through the dugout, and we felt it."

Weaver (5-7) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings. He struck out four, walked two, and shut down Alex Rodriguez, who had reached base safely in 53 straight games.

Boston plays longball in Pac Be debut

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Boston Red Sox showed manager Terry Francona the kind of offensive display he feared as Oakland's bench coach a year ago.

The craziest thing about it? Boston had pitcher-friendly Pac Bell Park seem like a hitter's haven after the Red Sox struggled at Coors Field in Denver.

Pinch-hitter Kevin Millar hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the fifth, and Boston had four other homers in beating the San Francisco Giants 14-9 Friday night.

"It was a big hit at the time in a fifth, that was huge 7-2," Millar said. "This is something you just build off of."

David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez also homered in the fifth, and Trot Nixon and Doug Mientkiewicz hit back-to-back home runs in the ninth for Boston. The five homers were a record for a Giants opponent.

"If you ever seen seven home runs hit in this ballpark?" slugger Barry Bonds said. "That was unreal. It makes this ballpark look like Colorado."

Marquis Grissom homered twice for the Giants, who had their nine-game home winning streak snapped in the highly anticipated, who regular-season game between the teams.

The game was played before a

rowdy sellout crowd of 42,557, the Giants' third-largest this season.

After homers by Nixon and Mientkiewicz, fans threw about two dozen baseballs onto the field, delaying the game.

"About saw everything to tonight," Francona said. "It was like playing a couple of different games. Early on, we were scrambling to stay in it. So many guys did so many things to keep us in the game."

Francona praised the poise of Mike Timlin (4-2), who pitched 2½ innings, allowing only one hit. With Boston trailing 7-6 in the fifth, Millar's shot hit the left-field wall just above Bonds' outstretched glove and went over for his second career pinch-hit homer and first by a Red Sox player this year.

Ortiz hit a two-run homer earlier in the inning and Ramirez hit his AL-leading 18th one batter later for Boston, which had lost six of nine on the road.

In other games Friday: Athletics 2, Cubs 1: Mark Kotz homered and drove in another run, and visiting Oakland spoiled Sammy Sosa's return from a month on the DL.

Who regular-season game between the teams. The game was played before a

chance to tie it with two outs in the ninth but grounded out to short to end the game.

Mariners 5, Pirates 4: Jamie Moyer (6-2) pitched six innings and hit a two-run single for visiting Seattle.

Moyer struck out four, walked one and allowed three hits in his first start in Pittsburgh since May 21, 1991, when he gave up two homers to Barry Bonds while pitching for St. Louis.

Royals 10, Phillies 4: Matt Stairs homered twice and Benito Santiago hit a three-run shot for visiting Kansas City.

Chris George (1-0) allowed four runs and nine hits in 6½ innings, helping the Royals win their third straight.

Santiago broke his left hand and will be sidelined at least six weeks after he was hit by a pitch from Geoff Geary in the sixth.

White Sox 11, Expos 7: Carlos Lee had four hits and four RBIs and Chicago extended the Sox' losing streak to seven.

Lee, who fell a triple short of the cycle, drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth with an RBI single off Luis Ayala (0-6).

Rangers 8, Marlins 1: John Wadsworth (1-0) won his first start in nearly six years, Alfonso Soriano drove in two runs and visiting Texas snapped a four-game losing streak.

"He was the same old Weaver. He mixed up pitches well and had pretty good stuff," Rodriguez said. "The key for us is to get him early. We did, but we just couldn't apply the knockout punch."

Eric Gagne got three outs for his 17th save, extending his major league record to 80 in a row.

"The fans were really getting into it. They were amazed," he said. "You always want to win, but you put a little extra into it when you go out against the Yankees."

New York starter Javier Vazquez (7-5) struggled with his control, giving up five runs — two earned — and nine hits in five-plus innings. He threw three wild pitches — one led to a run in the fourth — and made a costly throwing error in the sixth.

"When I feel like I don't have good stuff, I just try to keep us in the game. It was just a bad night," Vazquez said.

The Dodgers took a 5-3 lead in the sixth. Adrian Beltré led off with a single and advanced to third on consecutive wild pitches by Vazquez. Encarnacion doubled to the left-field corner, scoring Beltré. Encarnacion scored from second when Vazquez fielded Alex Cora's bunt single and threw into the runner, causing the ball to pop loose.

The Yankees took a 3-0 lead with three bloop hits in the third, including Giambi's two-run single. Vazquez pitched the inning with a double.

The Dodgers tied it with three runs in the fourth. Beltré doubled and scored the Vazquez's wild pitch. Roberts' single up the middle scored two runs.

Indians 4, Braves 2: Cliff Lee (6-1) outpitched Mike Hampton (1-7) to win for the first time in three starts, and Casey Blake hit a tiebreaking homer to lift visiting Cleveland over the Braves in their first meeting since the 1995 World Series.

Astros 5, Angels 0: Pete Munro (1-0) combined with three relievers on a five-hitter and Jeff Kent drove in three runs.

The host Astros snapped a four-game losing streak and gave manager Jimmy Williams his 900th career victory.

Brewers 4, Twins 1: Ben Sheets (6-0) pitched four-hit ball for six innings, and Chad Moeller homered for the Brewers, who snapped visiting Minnesota's three-game winning streak.

Rockies 5, Orioles 3: Shawn Estes (7-3) allowed two runs in seven innings for his first win in a month and Todd Helton drove in three runs.

Paul Palmeiro hit career homer No. 538, and Jerry Hairston was a homer short of the cycle for the visiting Orioles, who led their third straight.

Blue Jays 3, Padres 2: Frank Menechino homered on David Wells' fifth pitch, and Ted Lilly (6-3) shut down host San Diego, who led their eighth straight. The Blue Jays snapped a four-game losing streak.

Cardinals, Mets walk off with victories

Pujols' home run in 10th wins for streaking Cards

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Ken Griffey Jr. came up empty again in his bid to hit his 500th homer. Thanks to Albert Pujols, so did the Cincinnati Reds, who lost their eighth straight on the road.

Pujols homered off Mike Matthews leading off the bottom of the 10th inning to give St. Louis a 4-3 victory over the Reds on Friday night, extending the Cardinals' winning streak to five.

The NL Central leaders have won 14 of 18 overall and have won their last two games in their final at-bat.

"I like the other kind (of wins), the no-brainers," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said. "If we get so far ahead, I can't mess those up."

Reminiscent of Mark McGwire's 70-homer season in 1998, flashbulbs popped throughout each of Griffey's at-bats. Otherwise, the occasion was less than a big event in St. Louis, with Busch Stadium about 10,000 seats shy of a sellout. There were more than 3,000 no-shows.

Griffey was 0-for-4, taking a called third strike in the second, lining to shortstop in the fourth, flying to center in the seventh and



Albert Pujols is mobbed by teammates after his walk-off homer in the 10th Friday night beat Cincinnati 4-3.

tapping out on a checked swing in the ninth. He's 3-for-17 with two RBIs in four games since hitting his 499th homer last Sunday against Cleveland.

Cardinals starter Chris Carpenter didn't shy away from the confrontation.

"I wasn't going to pitch around him," Carpenter said. "I said this the other day: If he hits the homer, he hits the homer."

"I was going to challenge him

and I was going to make pitches, and I did."

The Cardinals tied it with a two-out rally in the ninth off closer Danny Graves, who has blown seven saves in 34 chances. The rally featured hits by pinch-hitters Marlon Anderson and Ray Lankford, and the tying run scored on Tony Womack's infield hit — his third hit of the game.

Pujols, who entered the game

in a 4-for-26 slump since returning from a hamstring injury, was 2-for-4 and also had a sacrifice fly in the sixth. He hit a 2-0 pitch from Matthews (1-1) over the right-field wall for his 18th homer, and the third game-winning homer of his career.

"I hit it real good," Pujols said. "I know the air was kind of thick but I thought I had a pretty good chance because I know my stadium pretty well."

Cameron's shot caps Mets' climb back vs. Detroit

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Cameron homered with two outs in the bottom of the ninth to give the New York Mets a 3-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Friday night.

On a night when a convention of Hall of Fame catchers showed up to honor New York's Mike Piazza, it was Cameron who had the big hit for the Mets.

Cameron's ninth home run — and second in as many nights — came on a 2-2 pitch from reliever Danny Patterson (0-4) and sent the Mets to their second victory in a row.

During a pregame ceremony, Piazza was honored for breaking Carlton Fisk's record for home runs as a catcher on May 5. Hall of Famers Fisk, Johnny Bench, Gary Carter and Yogi Berra were on hand.

Piazza caught for the first time since May 23 on Thursday and was behind the plate again for Friday night's game.

Tom Glavine allowed seven hits and two runs over seven innings and hit a two-run single.

In the top of the ninth, Detroit had runners at first and third with one out, but Braden Loeper (1-1) pitched out of the jam.

Dmitri Young hit a solo homer in the fourth for Detroit.

Messages of Support

★ I want you to know how amazing you are. I want you to know how much you're treasured and celebrated and quietly thanked. J. Dunn, Stamford, VT

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Texas plays like a top seed

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — J.P. Howell and two relievers combined on a two-runter, Dooley Prince drove in four hits and Curtis Thigpen scored four times to lead top-seeded Texas to a 13-2 victory over Arkansas in the College World Series on Friday night.

The Longhorns (56-13) have scored 10 or more runs in three straight games and four times over the last six.

For the Razorbacks (45-23), who are in the CWS for the first time since 1989, it was the most lopsided loss in 83 games.

"I'm just disappointed with the score being the way it was," Arkansas coach Dave Van Horn said. "The game got away from us early, and you have to give Texas credit. They got after us."

Arkansas is one of four Southeastern Conference teams in the College World Series. In the first game Friday, Georgia of the SEC scored four runs in the fourth inning to come from behind and beat Arizona 8-7.

The Bulldogs (44-21) play Texas on Sunday and Arizona (35-26-1) will play Arkansas in an elimination game.

Howell, the Big 12 pitcher of the year and a first-team All-American, struck out eight and held Arkansas hitless until Scott Hode led off the fourth with a clean single.



Howell (15-2) lost his shutout bid in the seventh when Scott Bridges hit a two-out home run over the right-field wall.

Howell then put Jake Dugger on base with his sixth walk of the game and was replaced by J. Brent Cox. Buck Cody pitched the ninth.

Thigpen had three singles and a triple and reached base a fifth time on an error. Ryan Russ drove in three runs for the Longhorns.

"I think the only statement is we won the first game," Thigpen said. "We feel like we're playing well."

Howell pitched out of trouble in the second and fifth innings.

After walking two of the first three Arkansas batters in the second, he struck out Devin Day and got Bridges on a grounder.

The Hogs loaded the bases in the fifth on two walks and an error, but Howell escaped when he threw out Clay Goodwin after fielding a hard comebacker to the mound.

Arkansas starter Charlie Boyce

(10-3) struggled, hitting three of the first eight batters he faced.

The teams combined for a CWS-record eight hit batsmen, five by Arkansas pitchers.

In the first game of the day, Joey Side hit a two-run single that capped Georgia's four-run fourth and Will Startup pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth for the Bulldogs.

Side drove in the go-ahead runs as Georgia turned a 6-3 deficit into a 7-6 lead.

The Bulldogs added an insurance run in the seventh when Jason Jacobs came in from third after Arizona catcher Nick Hundley threw into center field on an attempt to pitch a runner off second.

Startup, the All-Southeastern Conference closer, came on in the seventh and struck out the side.

He ran into trouble in the eighth. Arizona made it 8-7 when Brad Meyer beat out a potential double-play grounder, allowing Hundley to score. Trevor Core then singled and Jeff Van Houten walked to load the bases.

Startup ran the count to 3-2 against Jordan Brown before Brown struck out swinging at a fastball.

"When you get into those situations, whatever happens, happens," Startup said. "How you react to it is how the team will react to it."

Startup pitched a perfect ninth to earn his 11th save.

Gordon pushes past teammates for pole

The Associated Press

BROOKLYN, Michigan — In his 13 years in NASCAR's top series, Jeff Gordon has learned when to use finesse and when to charge.

So, making that call Friday was no sweat for the four-time champion. He charged — and the pole was his for the DHL 400 at Michigan International Speedway.

Racing roundup

"You know when to push it and when to hold it back," Gordon explained. "Today was a day to push it because the car was just about perfect. When the car's getting through the corners and down the straightaways like that, it certainly makes my job easy."

Gordon's fast lap of 190.865 mph broke the race qualifying mark of 190.365 mph set last year by Bobby Labonte. But it fell short of Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s track qualifying record of 191.149 mph at the August race in 2000.

It was Gordon's second pole of the season and the 48th of his career.

He led a sweep of the top three spots by Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolets, with rookie Brian Vickers second and Jimmie Johnson third.

The 20-year-old Vickers might have had a second career pole if he had listened to Gordon.

"I'm always seeking advice when I go to Jeff Gordon," Vickers said. "He told me one thing not to do and that was to ask too much out of the car and go to the gas too soon. He said the car would get tight."

"I did that anyway in turns three and



Brian Vickers, left, listens to teammate Jeff Gordon during qualifying Friday for the NASCAR Nextel Cup DHL 400 at Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, Mich. Gordon won the pole for Sunday's race and Vickers will start second.

four, and that's probably what cost us the pole. Obviously, he applied that wisdom a little better than I did."

Johnson was disappointed, too.

"Today, we felt we had a shot at the pole and we thought our lap would hold up," said Johnson, coming off a victory last Sunday at Pocono and heading into Sunday's race just 58 points behind series leader

Earnhardt in the standings. "We came close but, if you don't win it, you re-evaluate and think about the race."

Ryan Newman's Dodge was fourth on Friday, followed by the Chevy of Robby Gordon, the Dodge of rookie Brendan Gaughan and the Ford of defending race winner Kurt Busch.

Earnhardt will start 11th in Sunday's race, alongside Bobby Labonte, who qualified 12th after winning both poles here in 2003. Rookie Kasey Kahne, who leads the series with four poles this season, had a rare off day, qualifying 34th.

Truex wins second straight Bush pole

SPARTA, Ky. — Martin Truex Jr. won the pole Friday for the NASCAR Busch Series Meijer 300 at Kentucky Speedway, topping a record-setting qualifying session.

Truex, the series points leader, reached a top speed of 180.102 mph in his Chevrolet around the 1½-mile track in warm, humid conditions. He broke the track and event record held for barely 15 minutes by Kyle Busch, who turned in a lap of 179.832 mph in his Chevrolet.

Kenny Wallace, the first driver to qualify his car, initially broke the mark with an opening lap of 178.089 mph, also in a Chevrolet. But he qualified only sixth, as defending race champion Bobby Hamilton Jr. (179.605 mph), Jason Leffler (178.992) and Robby Gordon (178.093) passed him after Truex and Busch qualified for Saturday's race.

Stacy Compton set the former record of 176.394 mph last year.

Thirteen drivers exceeded that speed in qualifying Friday.

"We were able to make our car just about perfect for qualifying, and that's

what you try to do," Truex said.

Truex, who hadn't won a Busch Series pole before this year, has won five in 2004, including the last two. He started on the pole last week at Nashville Superspeedway for the Federated Auto Parts 300 and finished second behind Leffler.

He's won four Busch Series races this year, including one from the pole — the Charter 250 at Gateway International Raceway.

Junqueira leads Champ field

Portland, Ore. — Bruno Junqueira was quick in more ways than one.

Not only did he have the fastest lap in qualifying Friday for the Champ Car Grand Prix of Portland, he did it on his third trip around the course, and wrapped up his day after six laps.

Junqueira earned one series point for his fast lap of 59.266 seconds, at an average speed of 119.603 mph, on the road course at Portland International Raceway.

With the provisional pole, Junqueira added his series total to 77, two points ahead of Patrick Carpentier.

The Brazilian driver also is guaranteed a front-row spot for the race Sunday on the 1.969-mile permanent road course just north of downtown Portland.

"On the lap that I posted my fastest time, I had no traffic and just pushed really hard," he said.

Sebastien Bourdais, Junqueira's Newman-Haas Racing teammate, was second best at 118.698. Paul Tracy overcame engine trouble in practice with a lap at 118.553.

The drivers have a second qualifying session Saturday in preparation for the 94-lap, 186.06-mile race.

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Fast break

Jackson leaving L.A.; Shaq seeks trade; Kobe opts out

BY JOHN NADEL

The Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — The coach is leaving, one superstar has opted out of his contract, and the other wants a trade.

The breakup of the Los Angeles Lakers began in most dramatic fashion.

Phil Jackson, one of the most successful coaches in NBA history, won't return in that capacity with the Lakers next season, the team said Friday.

As that was being announced, a team source told the AP on condition of anonymity that Shaquille O'Neal, a staunch supporter of Jackson, had requested a trade.

And as expected, Kobe Bryant became an unrestricted free agent, opting out of his contract.

All this just three days after the heavily favored Lakers lost to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA Finals, ruining their attempt at a fourth championship in five years.

"Oh, we've had such a great run here. It's been a great time," Jackson told KNBC-TV outside the Greek Theatre on Friday night.

"You know, things have to end. This is the right time for me."

Jackson said his relationship with Bryant, shaky over the years, was not a factor in what happened.

"The Lakers will go on and so will Phil Jackson," he said.

Jackson agreed with Lakers

owner Jerry Buss to end his tenure as coach. Buss offered Jackson another position with the organization, which Jackson soon will decide whether to accept, the team said in a statement.

Jackson's departure was expected even before he met with Buss following the coach's participation in season-ending interviews with several players earlier in the day.

Jackson's five-year, \$35 million contract expires at the end of the month. He was discussing a contract extension, but the Lakers in February put off talks until after the season.

Jackson joined the Lakers in June 1999, and coached them to their first championship in 12 years in his first season. Two more titles followed, giving him nine to tie him with former Boston coach Red Auerbach for the most in NBA history.

The Lakers were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs by eventual champion San Antonio last year and reached the NBA Finals this year before losing to the Pistons in five games.

In 14 seasons as a head coach, Jackson is 832-316 for a 73 percent winning percentage — best in NBA history. His 175 playoff wins are the most ever and his .717 postseason winning percentage also is top.

The 58-year-old Jackson coached the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls to championships



ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/ART

Three days after losing to the Detroit Pistons in the NBA Finals, the Los Angeles Lakers announced that coach Phil Jackson, left, won't return next year. That announcement was followed by Shaquille O'Neal, front, requesting a trade and Kobe Bryant, second from right, opting out of his contract to become a free agent.

in 1992-94 and 1996-98. Jackson then took a year off before becoming coach of the Lakers. His teams in Chicago and Los Angeles had a 9-0 record in the NBA Finals before this year.

Among names mentioned already as possible successors are former Houston Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich, former Seattle SuperSonics and Milwaukee Bucks coach George Karl, and current Southern California coach Henry Bibby.

O'Neal said in a telephone interview with the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles Daily News that he had lost faith in the franchise and general manager Mitch Kupchak.

"The direction they're going in,

if they're going to continue to go in the same direction, I don't want to be a part of this," O'Neal said. "This team, it ain't about me. It ain't about Phil. It's supposed to be about team."

"Right now, upstairs in the Laker offices, they're lost the team concept. They're trying to pit people against each other. ... So, obviously, we don't have the same thought process anymore. That's fine."

Kupchak said Thursday he would consider trading O'Neal if that's what the 33-year-old center wanted. O'Neal has two years remaining on his contract but can opt out next season.

Karl Malone already has opted out of his contract, although he

hopes to play for the Lakers if healthy. Gary Payton and Derek Fisher could follow Bryant and Malone and opt out of their deals, although it's believed Payton will exercise his \$5.4 million option now that Jackson is gone.

Kupchak made clear the team's priorities Thursday when he said the Lakers would do anything they need to keep the 25-year-old Bryant.

Kupchak said the team will offer Bryant the maximum allowed — seven years and more than \$140 million. That's a lot more money and one year longer than any other team can offer.

O'Neal, Bryant and Fisher all joined the Lakers in 1996. Bryant had his differences with Jackson, especially over the triangle offense employed by the coach.

Report: McGrady wants out of Orlando

BY MIKE BRANOM

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Tracy McGrady has reportedly told the Magic that he wants out of Orlando.

McGrady informed the team of his decision in a meeting on Friday, the Orlando Sentinel and Florida Today newspapers reported on their Web sites, quoting league sources.

Magic spokesman Joel Glass declined comment on the reports.

McGrady didn't answer phone calls, and someone who answered the intercom at his gated home said he wasn't there Friday night. His agent, Arn Tellem, didn't return a call from The Associated Press.

McGrady can opt out of his seven-year, \$93-million contract after next season, and has said he will do that rather than suffer through more losses — such as the 21-61 campaign that ended in April.

Team executives repeatedly have said they wanted to know soon if McGrady is in or out. They insist they won't let him walk without receiving compensation, as happened with Shaquille O'Neal, who joined the Los Angeles Lakers as a free agent in 1996.

The future of the Magic apparently wasn't an interest for McGrady on Friday as he skipped a pregame workout by potential No. 1 overall pick Emeke Okafor.

McGrady also won't watch prep power forward

Dwight Howard work out with the team on Saturday. The Magic own the top pick in the draft and are deciding who to take or whether they should trade the selection.

McGrady has said he'd rather see Orlando deal the pick it won in the draft lottery to acquire veteran help.

"That's his opinion," said Okafor, the 6-foot-10 center forward from Connecticut.

Magic general manager John Weisbrod claims he has received trade bids that are intriguing and getting better by the day.

"There are teams offering three guys and their first-round pick. Three established players and a lottery pick is certainly a respectable offer for a team that has a lot of holes to fill," Weisbrod said. "It comes down to making a judgment of how special you think one of these two kids can be."

Drafting Okafor, a two-time national defensive player of the year, would immediately toughen up Orlando's play in the paint. The Magic finished last in almost every defensive statistic last season.

Okafor averaged almost 4.3 blocks per game in his three seasons at Connecticut, and his 411 career blocks rank seventh in NCAA history. He also averaged 10.6 rebounds.

The knock on Okafor is his offense, although it improved at Connecticut. His career average of 13.8 points has many wondering if his ceiling is limited.

"I'll try to help in as many ways as I can," Okafor said.

Nets seeking long-term deal for coach Frank

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Lawrence Frank will be back to coach the New Jersey Nets next season, and possibly longer if an agreement on a long-term contract can be reached.

Earlier this week, the Nets guaranteed that the 33-year-old Frank would be back without an interim tag when they picked up his contract option for next season.

"We plan on negotiating with him to see if we can do a long-term contract," Nets president Rod Thorn said Friday.

Andy Miller, Frank's agent, said the two sides have not held negotiations on a new deal.

Frank guided the Nets to a 25-15 record after taking over in late January when Byron Scott was fired. He set a record for major sports in North America by winning his first 13 games as the coach.

"I think he did a remarkable job under the circumstances," Thorn said. "Just a remarkable job."

The Nets' bid for a third straight Eastern Conference title

ended when they were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs by the Detroit Pistons in seven games.

New Jersey had a 3-2 lead in the series before the eventual NBA champions rallied.

Miller had no timetable for a new talks with the Nets. He wasn't worried that Frank might head into next season as a lame duck. "He is a good coach," Miller said. "The more time he can develop his body of work, the more people will appreciate him."

The Nets had until the end of the month to exercise the option of Frank's contract.

Miller said Frank was handed a letter Wednesday informing him of the move.

"I think he (Frank) was so focused on preparing for next season, I don't think he even thought about it," Miller said.

After the Nets were eliminated, Frank didn't help his bargaining position, saying he would accept whatever the Nets offered.

"I love to coach and I love our guys," Frank said. "This is what you want to do for the rest of your life."

Montgomery not giving up Olympic dreams

The Associated Press

Saying he will fight for the chance "to fulfill his dreams and participate in the 2004 Olympics," 100-meter world record holder Tim Montgomery told the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency that he has done nothing wrong and ridiculed alleged USADA evidence against him.

Montgomery, one of four U.S. athletes formally notified on June

Sports briefs

7 that the USADA is pursuing possible drug charges

against them, issued the response Friday to the anti-doping agency.

Montgomery and the other three athletes — Chryste Gaines, Michelle Collins and Alvin Harrison — had until Friday to respond

to the USADA's formal notice. Now, a USADA review panel will decide whether to bring doping charges against them.

If they are found guilty of doping, they would face minimum bans of two years.

Montgomery's girlfriend, three-time Olympic champion Marion Jones, also is under investigation by the USADA but has not received a formal letter that the agency is pursuing a case

against her.

None of those athletes failed a drug test, so the USADA is building cases based on documents and other circumstantial evidence deriving from the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative case. Documents from the grand jury investigation of BALCO were subpoenaed by a Senate committee and then turned over to the USADA.

ShorRite Classic up for grabs

GALLOWAY TOWNSHIP, N.J.

— With one hand down and two to go, the ShorRite LPGA Classic is anyone's tournament. Except Annika Sorenstam's, of course.

There's an up-and-comer, Giulia Sereno of Italy, who shared the first-round lead Friday after a 6-under 65. There's 42-year-old Denise Killeen, who also topped the leaderboard.

Cristie Kerr was a shot back. Behind her stood five players, all with a chance.

Sorenstam's absence — she opted to skip the event — might be bad news for the tournament, but it is giving others a chance.

Killeen eagled the par-5 16th, her seventh hole of the day.

"That just kind of jump-started everything," she said.

After that, she used precision iron play to set up short putts for birdies on Nos. 3, 5, 6 and 9, getting a good start on a self-imposed goal of 18 birdies for the tournament.

Wie short at Masters qualifier

HERSHEY, Pa. — Michelle Wie shot a 2-under 142 at the U.S. Men's Public Amateur Links qualifying, all but ending her chance to qualify for the 2005 Masters through the Publix tournaments.

The only female in the field, the 14-year-old Wie finished two strokes behind winners David Bradshaw and Alex Knoll.

Had she been victorious, Wie would have been invited to the Minnesota event in July as one of two southeastern Pennsylvania representatives.

The top 64 players from the Publix will qualify for a match-play tournament and would have to win six matches to make it to the Masters. Wie has said that winning the July match-play tournament would have been her best hope of getting to Augusta.

Ducks send 6 Gerber to Hurricanes for Malec

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Mighty Ducks traded goalie Martin Gerber to Carolina for defenseman Tomas Malec and a third-round pick in this year's draft Friday.

Malec had seven goals and 13 assists in 74 games for Lowell of the AHL last season. Malec, scoreless in two games with Carolina, was originally drafted by Florida in the third round of the 2001 draft.

Gerber had an 11-12-4 record in 32 games for Anaheim last season, with a 2.26 goals-against average and .918 save percentage.

The backup to Jean-Sebastien Giguere, he was originally drafted by Anaheim in the eighth round in 2001.

The Mighty Ducks now have four selections in the first three rounds of the draft, which takes place June 25-26 in Raleigh, N.C.

On Wednesday, the Hurricanes traded goaltender Arturs Irbe to the Columbus Blue Jackets for future considerations. He had been Carolina's all-time goaltending leader with 309 games played, 130 wins and 20 shutouts.



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SPORTS



Longhorns stamped
Razorbaks on first day
at Omaha, Page 27

A star of Showtime bows out



Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson walks back to the bench during Game 5 of the NBA Finals against Detroit on Tuesday. Three days after the Lakers lost the series 4-1, the team announced Jackson won't be back next season. See story on Page 30.



Els

Mickelson

Singh

Goosen

Golf's best begin to Open things up

Big names take charge in second round

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. — This is how a U.S. Open leader board should look.

There's Phil Mickelson, who has a new green jacket in his closet and now wants a trophy. There are Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, a pair of South Africans who've won America's national championship.

There are Vijay Singh and Corey Pavin and Mike Weir, major winners all.

About the only thing missing was Tiger Woods, still hacking his way through the weeds at Shinnecock Hills but somehow convinced that he's close to turning things around.

It didn't look that way Saturday when Woods bogeyed two of the first three holes. After driving into the hay — again — at No. 5, he slammed his club in disgust.

Even without Woods in contention, it shapes up as another dramatic weekend. The Open began separating the haves — Mickelson and Co. — from the have-nots — mini-tour regular David Roesch and others like him began to fade away after a surprising Day 1.

Looking as though he has this major thing all figured out, Mickelson surged to the top in the second round with a 4-under 66 in surprisingly calm conditions Friday, sharing the lead with Japanese star Shigeki Maruyama.

The guy who didn't win his first 42 majors as a pro has positioned himself to win two in a row — the first two legs of the Grand Slam.

"After winning Augusta, I feel like the preparation I had, the style of shots I've worked on, seem to be allowing me to play and score well in the majors," Mickelson said. "Now I look forward to and can't wait for them to come."

Winning two in a row won't be a gimme.

Goosen was two strokes back, Els three. Singh and Pavin were within four. And Weir climbed into the red, five shots off the pace heading into Saturday's third round.

"Obviously, I know I can do this," said Goosen, who won this tournament three years ago at Southern Hills. "You've just got to hang in there."

Mixed in among the major winners were Maruyama, Jeff Maggert, Fred Funk

SEE OPEN ON PAGE 28

Leader board

Leaders after the second round of the U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Southampton, N.Y.

Shigeki Maruyama	65-68-134 -6
Phil Mickelson	68-66-134 -6
Jeff Maggert	68-67-135 -5
Fred Funk	70-66-136 -4
Retief Goosen	70-66-136 -4
Angel Cabrera	66-71-137 -3
Ernie Els	70-67-137 -3
Vijay Singh	68-70-138 -2
Corey Pavin	67-71-138 -2
Mike Weir	69-70-139 -1
Trevor Immelman	69-70-139 -1



Jeff Gordon races to Michigan pole

Page 29



Encarnacion, Dodgers back Weaver in win against former Yankees teammates

Page 26



Pujols helps St. Louis walk away with victory over NL Central rival Cincinnati

Page 27

Roddick, Federer ready to usher in new Wimbledon era Page 23